Hafa Adai! Salpan Iribune

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Extending humanitarian parole fading fast-Kilili

THURSDAY DECEMBER 27, 2018

NEW POLICE OFFICERS Graduates of the Northern Marianas College and Department of Public Safety cohort for the Police Academy training program shakes hands with some Tinian leaders, including Tinian Sens. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Francisco Cruz (R-Tinian), Tinian mayorelect and incumbent Rep. Edwin Aldan (R-Tinian), and Chief Justice Alexandro Castro, during graduation rites at the Kammer Beach pavilion on Tinian over the weekend. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO See story on Page 5

Pierce makes 'People of the Year' list

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

A travel retail industry publication has named Marian Aldan-Pierce as her role as a DFS Saipan executive.

www.saipantribune.com

Aldan-Pierce was recognized by the Moodie Davitt Report as one of its 12 People of the Year for taking initiative and using her role as DFS Saipan president to help those who one of its 12 people of the year for were left devastated by Super Ty- endeavors. phoon Yutu in October 2018.

The honorees were described as a diverse line of executives who have been chosen for a wide range of contributions from business achievements to community and charitable

In the Moodie Davitt Pierce



Report story written by Martin Moodie, it said that the DFS Group, under the leadership of Aldan-Pierce, responded almost immediately to assist people affected by Super Typhoon Yutu, includ-See PIERCE on Page 4

By JON PEREZ jon_perez@saipantribune.com

elegate Gre-Kilili gorio Sablan (Ind-MP) has expressed concerns over some of the immigration policies of the administration of President Donald J. Trump, especially since there's still no update on the humanitarian parole program and employment authorization document issued to recipients of the program.

See PAROLE on Page 4

CUC: CHCC's unpaid \$26M is escalating

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp's unpaid utility bill has already reached \$26 million as of last Nov. 30 and the amount just keeps escalating, according to acting Commonwealth Utilities Corp. chief financial officer Corina Magofna and CUC lawyer James Sirok.

At a recent CUC board meeting, Magofna said that CHCC pays CUC See CUC on Page 4

NOTICE

There will be no issue of Saipan Tribune on Jan. 1/2, 2019.

INSIDE



NATION

President Donald Trump said that parts of the federal government will stay closed.





FOCUS

Deported immigrants get their last flight on ICE Air, an obscure division of USICE.

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LIFE & STYLE

Archaeologists have unearthed the petrified remains of a harnessed horse in Pompeii.

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2 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE





New Year's Eve Gala Dinner Buffet December 31, 2018 6:00pm - 9:00pm \$42.00/adult \$21.00/child

*\$38.00/adult *\$19.00/child

New Year's Day Champagne Brunch January 1, 2019 11:00am - 2:00pm \$40.00/adult \$20.00/child *\$36.00/adult *\$18.00/child

New Year's Eve Special Set Menu December 31, 2018 6:00pm - 10:00pm Set A - \$90.00 /adult Set B - \$80.00 /adult

New Year's Eve Special Set Menu January 1, 2019 6:00pm - 10:00pm

Set A - \$90.00 /adult Set B - \$80.00 /adult

> AQUA RESORT CLUB Saipan

New Year's Eve New Year's Eve's Eve Countdown Party **BBQ Dinner Show** December 31, 2018 December 30, 2018 9:00pm - 1:00am 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Poolside Fireworks

Alana'ia Polynesian

Dancer Show

Live DJ

New Year's Eve **BBQ Dinner Show** December 31, 2018 6:00pm - 9:00pm

New Year's Day **BBQ Dinner Show** January 1, 2019 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Alana'ia Polynesian Dinner Show Menu Options Vary

Local

Commission seeks to keep the CNMI's family- friendly image

Despite the legalization of marijuana use in the CNMI, the CNMI Cannabis Commission still wants to retain the Commonwealth's familyfriendly image and, for that, it will need the help of the Marianas Visitors Authority and other community sectors.

Nadine Deleon Guerrero, a member of the CNMI Cannabis Commission, stressed this, saying they intend to work closely with community partners like the MVA in crafting the policies that will be implemented based on Public Law 20-66, the Taulamwar Sensible CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018. Under that law, the commercial, personal and recreational use of marijuana is now legal in the Commonwealth.

"What we as the commission intends on doing is working with every CNMI agency that may be affected or involved with production and the industry," she said, adding that the commission wants to make sure the CNMI would benefit from the new law, especially on the economic aspect.

The Marianas Visitors Authority, through board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce, earlier said that the new law may affect the CNMI's image as a family-friendly destination which the MVA has been aggressively promoting in some of the Commonwealth's source markets like China. Taiwan, and Japan.

Deleon Guerrero, who, along with Matt Deleon Guerrero, were appointed to the commission to represent Saipan, is allaying those concerns.

"We value partnerships and intergovernmental collaboration, and recognize that harnessing these relationships will only bring success in our mission of providing the fairest, most logical set of rules and regulations that will not only allow the CNMI economic growth," she said.

She said the commission is looking at crafting rules that will also ensure the safety of the CNMI community, "most especially our elderly and children, while maintaining sensitivity to our islands' and cultures' values."

She said the MVA would be one of the commission's strongest partners that would help them achieve the goals of P.L. 20-66. "I personally look forward to working with them [MVA] in the near future as we progress toward completion of the commission's first set of rules and regulations."

"It is definitely exciting, but we are also cognizant of the fact that there is still so much to do. We plan on keeping our media partners informed on progress once we have had a chance to convene as an official commission, which...won't be until after the holidays."

She added the CNMI could benefit from lifting the prohibition on cannabis use. "There are so many facets of what good the commission can bring as far as putting procedures and policies in place that are going to make it good for the CNMI. That is one take that this could do, but I think there's much more other untouched possibilities of how good this can be for the CNMI."

The commission's other members are Valentino Taisacan Jr. (Northern Islands), Lawrence Duponcheel (Tinian), and Thomas Songsong (Rota).

Deleon Guerrero said they would meet after the holidays to discuss the implementing guidelines of P.L. 20-66. "Having that as a pre-requisite on what we need to do now as a commission makes it a lot easier. ... We've met and the chemistry is good. So far, knowing that this is the kind of people that we're going to work with makes it a lot easier in terms of getting the policies and procedures promulgated faster." (Jon Perez)

Over 1,000 kids take part in '18 Holiday Fair

By ERWIN ENCINARES

erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com

Despite Super Typhoon Yutu's destruction in the CNMI, the three-phase 2018 Holiday Fair saw over 1,000 children participating, with peak participation in Koblerville.

Governor's Office Youth Affairs special assistant Shelane Borja told Saipan Tribune over the weekend that at least 1,100 children participated in the three-day 2018 Holiday Fair in Kagman, Koblerville, and Chalan Kanoa.

She noted that Kagman had about 300 participants, while Chalan Kanoa had 204. She noted that at least 600 children participated in Koblerville, which was highly unexpected due to the destruction of Super Typhoon Yutu. Participants, according to Borja, were counted through a gifting system that required participants to obtain signatures from each booth in exchange for a gift.

"We are just glad the community came out. ... We got [some] participation from Garapan and other villages," she said, emphasizing the struggle to set up a fair in all of the villages.

Without focusing on the obvious dip in participants, Borja noted that their goal was not to rake in a lot of participants but rather to "support" families through the holiday season.

"There are a lot of reasons why [some villages saw dips in participation]," she said. "We are just here to support them and make [residents] feel the holiday spirit.'

For the first time in its history, the Holiday Fair, according to Borja, was split into three separate dates and venues, with Kagman kicking off first on Dec. 15 at the Kagman Community Center from 6pm to 9pm. The fair continued on Dec. 20 in Koblerville, and on Dec. 22 in Chalan Kanoa at their respective community centers from 6pm to 9pm as well.

"We had a lot of children around the neighborhood that we saw," she said, referring to Chalan Kanoa's turn to host the fair. "We saw a lot of youth around Chalan Kanoa come out that we have not seen since the typhoon," Borja said.

As for Tinian and Rota, Borja declined to state a specific date and type of celebration for the holiday season but noted that one is currently being eyed before the New Year.

Exhibitors during the featured a whole tent com-Chalan Kanoa Holiday Fair included the Lady Diann

mitted toward donating away clothes, toiletries, and other Torres Foundation, which hygiene products; Division

nity Guidance Center; the Transit Authority; Depart-Grace Christian Academy;

Garrett Lee Smith Program; ment of Commerce; Marianas High School Interact

of Youth Services; Commu- Commonwealth Office on Club; and more participants in the fair at Chalan Kanoa. Borja noted that there were about 11 booths set up.



*On approved credit (OAC). Some conditions apply. Doc fees and registration not included. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Vehicle may not be exactly as shown. See dealer for more details. Maximum credit card payment toward vehicle purchase is \$2,500. While current supplies last. Eclipse Cross XE and Outlander SE — total price is \$26,995 less 20% down payment. Financed at 4.9% APR for 72 monthly payments of \$346.80 per month or \$160 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price is \$24,969.60.

'Cockfighting will just go underground'

Despite an impending federal ban next year, cockfighting would just be driven underground and continue to thrive in the CNMI, according to a local aficionado

"It would be difficult to put a stop to cockfighting events here in the CNMI," said David, who requested anonymity. "It has been part of [local] culture and history; they have inherited this pastime from their ancestors.'

David, who works attaching the blade to fighting cocks

whenever there's a derby or a special event that's held every weekend in As Lito, concedes that the sanctioned derbies would stop "but it will just go underground or in secret since there are a lot of people who enjoy cockfighting here. Especially if there are special events like parties, it will be hard to put a stop on this."

The ban on cockfighting came about after President Donald J. Trump's signed into law the \$867-billion farm bill, the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. It is now Public Law 115-334.

P. L. 115-334 extends the

federal ban of cockfighting to the U.S. territories of American Samoa, the CNMI, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands—U.S. jurisdictions where the animal blood sport has a huge following.

David pointed out that a lot of influential people in the CNMI patronize cockfighting or own and breed gamecocks. The ban on cockfighting would also affect the livelihood of people like him.

"The people here know who patronizes sabong (the Tagalog term for cockfighting). There are still outside events, even if there's one here in As Lito. Some people like me rely on this for extra income," said David.

He is what sabongeros (cockfighting aficionados) call a "doctor" since he also tends to the wounds of game fowls after each fight and takes care of the birds in giving vitamins and other supplements from chick to adulthood during breeding.

"I went to a seminar to study all of this. From the proper and effective way of tying the blade before a fight to taking care of the wounded gamecock. I've learned all of this when I worked as a breeder...in 2010."

"I don't place bets and just take care of gamecocks. I also take care of game fowl from the time they hatch by giving them vitamins and pre-conditioning them," added David.

"It would be hard for us, for people like me that have this as an extra income. ...I believe cockfighting will continue here."

The ban, which will become official in one year, overrides all local laws that legalizes and regulates cockfighting in the territories. Cockfighting had been already banned and considered a felony in several states in the mainland like California prior to the signing of P. L. 115-334.

The new law imposes a fine and a five-year prison term to people who would sponsor an event while those who would attend face a fine and one-year prison term.

Interior funds Marshall healthcare program

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of the Interior has authorized \$392,716, for the first quarter of fiscal year 2019 as partial funding amount for the Four Atoll Healthcare Program in the Marshall Islands. This program will benefit the people of Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap, and Utrok.

Originally funded through the first Compact of Free Association, these services are now supported through discretionary funding that requires congressional authorization and appropriation every year.

The program provides basic healthcare services and overall wellness programs for over 18,000 people from the

There are over 2,000 work-

ers in the CNMI either under

the humanitarian parole pro-

gram or with employment

whose papers are expiring on

Dec. 31, 2018, and they are

required to stop working by

Jan. 1, 2019, while the re-

newal of their documents are

Sablan said any announce-

ment about the program's

extension is usually made by

Thanksgiving Day, ever since

the administration of former

President Barack Obama first

for spouses of U.S. and Freely

Associated States citizens,

caregivers for the CNMI's

elderly or man'amko and for

the disabled, for CNMI per-

manent residents, and stateless

Stateless individuals are

those who were born in the

Marianas prior to 1978 to

non-Trust Territory citi-

Sablan said there are only a

few days left before the pro-

gram expires and there's no

update yet if it would be ex-

"Here we are, [four] days

before the end of the pro-

gram, and the anti-immigrant

Trump administration has not

announced its decision on

whether to extend or to dis-

continue humanitarian parole

for the Northern Marianas,"

said Sablan on his Facebook

post that he also sent to Saipan

individuals.

zens parents.

tended by Trump.

The humanitarian parole is

granted humanitarian parole.

documents

PAROLE

From Page 1

authorization

being processed.

four nuclear-affected atolls in the Marshall Islands. The program covers dental services, women's healthcare and cancer screening, diabetes screening and control, eye services in collaboration with the Canvas Back Eye Mission, immunization coverage, reduction of infant mortality, and surveillance of tuberculosis and leprosy.

The total requested for FY19 is \$ 1,570,864.

Enewetak, Bikini, Rongelap, and Utrok are the four Marshall Islands atolls impacted by the nuclear weapons testing program carried out by the U.S. Department of Defense between 1946 and 1958. (PR)

DPW struggles with typhoon debris clearing

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com

The Department of Public Works is struggling to complete the debris-clearing process, two months after Super Typhoon Yutu laid waste to parts of Saipan and Tinian.

According to Enrique Dela Cruz, Department of Public Works Solid Waste Management director, DPW has been working with the Saipan Mayor's Office to clear the island of typhoon debris but it has been a struggle.

Dela Cruz added that Super Typhoon Yutu is the worst

storm, in terms of debris, he has ever seen in all his years in the CNMI.

"We're trying our best. Right now, both the mayor's office and DPW have trucks and are going out there picking up all the typhoon debris along the roads. ... There's a lot of trash actually, I don't know how much, but it's too much. ... It's a struggle right now," he said.

Dela Cruz laments a lack of proper equipment. "The struggle right now is mostly the equipment, like grabbers and more dump trucks," he said.

With the right kind of equipment, like the grabbers,

Dela Cruz said, the department could efficiently pick up more typhoon debris faster because the machines are designed to do so. The machines would also eliminate the need for manual debris pickup and loading.

Dela Cruz said there are still loads of trash littering the southern side of the island, two months following Super Typhoon Yutu.

"It's been over a month and it's getting bad...when you drive, you can see all this debris along the main road way. There's lumber, roofing tin, furniture, appliances, some of municipal waste," he said.

The department has also been struggling with the process of throwing typhoon debris into the Marpi Landfill because there is so much trash to sort through.

"We're still sorting the trash so if you go to the dump, it's a mountain of tin, lumber, debris," he said.

To speed up the sorting process, Dela Cruz said, the department has set up a staging area in As Gonno, Koblerville.

"...We set up a place in As Gonno as a staging site for mixed debris and from there we're going to start separating before bringing it up to the landfill," he said.

PIERCE

From Page 1

ing around 90-percent of its local staff.

Following the devastation left behind by Super Typhoon Yutu, Aldan-Pierce and DFS Saipan General manager Milan Rabold "helped mobilize assistance for staff and local residents, from basic daily needs to deeper humanitarian relief."

Aside from humanitarian relief, Aldan-Pierce and her colleagues did more, setting up an online fundraising website, with a pledge to match donations dollar for dollar.

As of Dec. 24, DFS has reportedly raised over \$121,000 in the account, not counting what has been given/ pledged offline.

"Assistance to our employees, with the company's match of \$250,000 will be just over \$600,000 when all is set and done," Aldan-Pierce told Moodie. "We're proud to have played our role in rallying the travel retail community, which has since responded with vigor."

Moodie wrote, "Such results don't just happen. They take courage, passion, determination and organizational skill of people on the ground. We salute Marian AldanPierce and her team, and urge the industry to continue giving, via the dedicated website, to help those who lives have been destroyed," he said.

Aldan-Pierce told Saipan *Tribune* that it is a huge honor to be featured in the Moodie Davitt Report. "But our company should be foremost. They make it easy for those of us on the ground to always do the right thing. We are empowered and trusted to represent them well," she said.

In a separate Facebook post, Aldan-Pierce said: "It was a very humbling experience to be recognized internationally because the company you work for is so caring for its

employees and the community it does business in. I am so honored and blessed to be intricately intertwined with the DFS Group" she added.

The 11 other Moodie Davitt Report featured honorees are Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, Akbar Al Baker, Charles Chen, Bernard 'Benny' Klepach, Cissy Chan, Inken Callsen, Colm McLoughlin, Erik Juul-Mortensen, Kate Swann, Yungsik Son, and Evelyn Danos.

The Moodie Davitt Report is published by independent company Moodie International. It arose from The Moodie Report, a weekly newsletter for the travel retail industry.

Sirok said the \$4.8 million that the government currently owes is substantially less what the central government previously owed CUC.

"It's really the hospital and this \$26 million keeps escalating," said the lawyer, adding that this is hurting CUC.

"That's why I'm saying, to use a medical term, that we're hemorrhaging, because of this issue," he said.

Sirok underscored the need for CUC to finalize an MOU with CHCC as well as with the Commonwealth Ports Authority, which also owes CUC, to get back on track.

Tribune by email.

Sablan said news stories or commentaries published by media firms like Politico, a political journalism company that covers U.S. politics and policy, have been unsettling to the CNMI community, which rely on workers under these programs.

"News articles such as this makes me anxious about the fate of those who are here under humanitarian parole. These are our neighbors, some are our families, some have been here since before we became a Commonwealth [over 40 years]. And none of whom are criminals, hence they would have already been deported to their home country," he said.

"I hope and pray I am wrong. But, sadly, I am no longer hopeful that the Trump administration will extend the humanitarian parole program for the Northern Marianas—a program I had the Obama administration approve almost a decade ago."

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres had already sent a letter to U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen regarding the issue, which was brought up by CNMI foreign workers who are either under humanitarian parole status or EAD.

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) earlier introduced House Joint Resolution 20-13 to support the administration's letter, where it seeks to extend the 240-day rule to the more than 2,000 foreign workers that are under the humanitarian parole program or are EAD holders.

CUC

From Page 1

a minimum of \$5,000 or less per month; it is supposed to pay CUC \$400,000 a month.

Under CUC's memorandum of understanding with CHCC, the utility agency is supposed to recover \$400,000 a month from CHCC, Sirok said, but since the hospital is underfunded, CUC has agreed to collect only \$300,000 a month.

Yet CHCC is not complying with that payment arrangement, Sirok added.

CUC did meet with CHCC officials several months ago,

Sirok said, and they were supposed to come up with a new agreement that would be realistic to CHCC's plans and revenue.

Sirok told the CUC board that they can talk further about CHCC's outstanding bills during an executive session.

As for CUC's MOU with the central government, Sirok said his last knowledge of the issue told him that the government was on track with payments.

Magofna said that, as of last Nov. 30, the central government owes \$4.897.000.

CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho said the CNMI government is assisting CUC with the restoration efforts after Super Typhoon Yutu's devastation.

Camacho said the CNMI government has provided millions of dollars in funding to CUC and other agencies for the restoration and recovery.

Sirok said he is highlighting the central government's assistance because the CUC board may have read articles in the newspapers that are always citing the government as the "culprit" or owes so much money to CUC.

In reality, Sirok said, the government is moving along and is working well with CUC in trying to establish what they

owe and pay CUC.

Acting Northern Marianas College president Frankie Eliptico shares a few words during the Department of Public Safety graduation over the weekend after a coordinated effort between the two yielded 14 police academy graduates.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMC-DPS collaboration results in 14 new Tinian police officers

By ERWIN ENCINARES

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A partnership between the Northern Marianas College and the Department of Public Safety—their third thus far—has resulted in 14 new graduates in the Police Academy training program.

The new batch of cops is composed entirely of cadets from Tinian.

The graduation ceremony over the weekend was held on Tinian's Kammer Beach.

"The cadets' training included academic and handson training in areas such as constitutional law, report writing, and officer survivor skills," interim NMC president Frankie Eliptico told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the new police officers also earned 39 college credits. He encouraged the officers to sustain the momentum of the 39 college credits and work to-

ward a college degree.

"Earning a college degree, just like graduating from the police academy, is something no one can ever take away from you," Eliptico said. "It is an accomplishment that will open more doors for you at DPS and within your chosen career as a public servant."

Of the 14 fresh graduates, Ringo C. Reyes was named class valedictorian. He was also presented with the Top Gun Award, while Jacklyn U. Sanchez was named class salutatorian.

According to Eliptico, this was the third collaboration between DPS and NMC. He acknowledged the aid of DPS Commissioner Robert Guerrero, DPS resident director for Tinian Matthew Masga, and Lt. Arnold Seman.

Eliptico also recognized NMC's criminal justice coordinator Zerlyn Taimanao and NMC instructor Joe Taijeron.

Fewer domestic violence victims seen returning to Guma Esperanza in 2018

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

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The domestic violence shelter on Saipan, Guma Esperanza, expects to see fewer victims returning to the shelter this year compared to previous years.

According to Guma Esperanza shelter supervisor Lisa Ada, the shelter hasn't been receiving as many returnees as they have before.

A returnee is a domestic violence victim who returns to the Guma Esperanza to seek shelter once again.

"Sometimes we have clients coming back. We call them returnees. But so far it's not really happening that much," Ada said.

This could be an indication that shelterees have been working out their problems with their partners at home. Ada believes the reason for the improved numbers is that victims are trying their best to mend their familial relationships that caused them to enter the shelter in the first place.

"Families have been working out their relationships... with their children and their spouse, and that's a good indication," said Ada.

Some of these women could

have also gone on their own, to start a life for themselves outside the shelter. "They may be going on their own, like they moved on with their lives," she said.

The shelter's location is kept secret and is highly confidential to ensure the safety of the victims seeking shelter there. Guma Esperanza is under Karidat Social Services.

When asked how many are currently at the shelter, Ada said the number of shelterees is made confidential too.

The shelter also works with the Community Guidance Center, Department of Public Safety, and other organizations to assist victims of domestic violence.

This could be an indicaon that shelterees have been tember 2001. The Guma Esparanza was established on September 2001.

There are no qualifications to stay in the shelter. It is open for all victims of domestic violence, regardless if they are residents or nonresidents.

A 24-hour hotline is also available for victims in need of assistance. Volunteers from different organizations are on hand to provide information about the shelter and to guide victims through counseling.

The 24-hour hotline is 234-5100. For shelter assistance call 664-4583.





Case against two men accused of rape is dismissed

At the behest of the CNMI government, a Superior Court judge has dismissed the charges filed against two men accused of raping a 52-year-old woman on Saipan.

However, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho gave the Office of the Attorney General until Dec. 13, 2019, to re-file the case. If not, he intends to dismiss the case against Jaime Always, 47, and Youwan Weiner Sony, 29, with prejudice, which means the government cannot re-file the case.

The judge noted that this case has been filed and dismissed, then the OAG re-filed the case a second time and now the government wants it dismissed again.

At a hearing last Dec. 14, assistant attorney general Teri C. Tenorio moved to dismiss the case against the defendants without prejudice.

Always was present but his counsel, chief Public Defender Douglas W. Hartig, did not appear. Through Hartig, Always filed a non-opposition to the government's motion last Dec. 12.

Sony did not appear but was represented by his court-appointed counsel, Phillip Tydingco.

The OAG had argued that it can wait many years and re-file the case as long as the statute of limitation has not yet expired.

But Camacho expressed concern that this case "will fall through the cracks" and be forgotten.

Camacho said the longer the otherwise the case is dis-

OAG waits to re-file the charges, the more likely the witnesses' memory will fade, witnesses will move away or otherwise become unavailable to testify, that excessive time makes it harder for the prosecutor and defendant to call key witnesses.

The OAG claims that the case is being dismissed to allow the alleged victim to seek counseling and treatment.

Camacho said he is sympathetic to the alleged victim's needs, but he also has to balance the need for the OAG and the defendant to resolve the case in a timely manner.

Therefore, the judge said, the OAG has until Dec. 13, 2019, to re-file the charges; missed with prejudice.

Camacho vacated the motion hearing set for Feb. 20, 2019.

Camacho further ordered that any or all bail posted be exonerated and defendants' travel documents be released to them.

Tenorio recently informed the court that the alleged victim in the case has requested counseling and treatment. Tenorio did not indicate what kind of counseling and treatment were requested.

The prosecutor said as the duration of the requested treatment remains unknown and because the time limitation to begin a prosecution has not expired, the "Commonwealth believes it is in the interest of justice to dismiss the instant

matter without prejudice."

Last March, Camacho dismissed without prejudice the charges against Always after finding during a preliminary hearing that no probable cause to believe that the crimes of two counts of sexual assault in the first degree were committed.

The OAG then re-filed the charges against Always.

Last September, the Office of the Public Defender moved to dismiss count 2 of the third amended information charging Always with sexual assault in the first degree.

Assistant public defender Heather M. Zona asserted that the government failed to set forth facts sufficient to place Always on notice as to what it is he is alleged to have done.

According to police, officers responded to a house last Feb. 4 to investigate a reported sexual assault incident.

Upon arriving at the scene, the officers met a woman, who stated that two men she identified as Always and Sony raped her.

Always and Sony were found by the officers still sleeping inside the house where the rape allegedly happened.

Igitol said Always and Sony were interviewed and admitted to having had sex with the woman, but that it was consensual. (Ferdie De La Torre)

Yutu concert features master violinist

A master violinist who is also known as the "Maestro on Wheelchair" will be the featured performer of a free concert on Saipan right after the New Year's Day celebration.

JP Entertainment president Jun Ho Park said that Dr. In Hong Cha would be performing in a musical concert at the Mount Carmel Cathedral on Jan. 3, 2019, at 7:30pm.

"This concert is an encouragement for all residents of the CNMI due to Super Typhoon Yutu. It's free and everyone is welcome," he told Saipan Tribune.

Cha, who is a professor of music at the Wright State University in Ohio, is also the official university orchestra conductor; professor of violin; and first violin of the university's Faculty String Quartet. Cha would be performing on Saipan with pianist Hye Yeon Hwang.

Cha was presented the 2018 Best Classical Album of the Year award and the Best Classical Artist of the Year award during the 2018 Pepsi Music Awards in Venezuela in early 2018. The award was designed to highlight the best of Venezuelan musical talent and was presented to Cha on Sept. 27, 2018, in Caracas, Venezuela.

Cha was honored with the award through his album, Textures From the North of South, which is a musical coordination between Cha and Colombian-Venezuelan music producer Hildemaro Alvarez.

Cha is also a former concertmaster at the Daejeon Philharmonic Orchestra and former principal of the South Carolina Philharmonic Orchestra, and has received the Korean presidential award for the most distinguished Korean living in a foreign country.

Cha is an active performer in the United States, Europe, South America, and Asian countries. Two Korean Broadcasting System documentaries are based on his autobiographies, Beautiful Man and Beautiful Success, which was published in 2003, and Wheelchair is my Wing, which was published in 2012. (Erwin Encinares)

Lawsuit vs XTRA Airways, its execs is dismissed

The federal court dismissed Friday a lawsuit filed against the owner of the Florida-based XTRA Airways Inc. and its officials by a former company manager.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed with prejudice the lawsuit filed by Thomas L. Nolte against TEM Enterprises and its officials after the parties reached a settlement agreement. Dismissed with prejudice means Nolte can no longer re-file the case.

Nolte sued after he was allegedly terminated without cause a few months after being hired in 2017.

Nolte, the airline's former

manager for its Asian operation, and TEM Enterprises, through their respective counsels, Colin M. Thompson and Robert Turk, agreed to the voluntary dismissal of the case.

The parties recently informed the court that they have finalized the terms of an agreement that settles the case.

Manglona reviewed the settlement, directed the clerk of court to close the case, and ordered the parties to bear their own costs.

In the original complaint, Nolte sued XTRA Airways, saying that the company's true goal in hiring him was to boost XTRA's value. The defendants denied the allegations. (Ferdie de la Torre)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality Division of Coastal Resources Managemen P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315 www.dcrm.gov.mp



Janice E. Castro Director, DCRM

RESCHEDULED MEETING OF THE **CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS**

Thursday, December 27, 2018, 9:30AM BECQ 2nd Floor Main Conference Room Lower Gualo Rai, Middle Road, Saipan

AGENDA

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of December 03, 2018 Meeting Minutes

II. PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW

- Project: NEW CENTURY HOTEL The New Century Hotel, LLC is proposing to renovate and convert an existing three-story office building to a forty-eight (48) room hotel operation. The hotel will include 36 parking spaces – 2 ADA compliance parking stalls, 27 guests parking, and 7 for hotel operation use. The building is connected to the CUC power, water, and sewer line. The project site is located in Tanapag Village south of Tanapag Elementary School, east of the Youth Center, and west of Chalan Pale Arnold Road. The size of the property is approximately 1,800 square meters, more or less. CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2019-X-001
 - 1) Agencies' Discussion of Application Status
 - Agencies' Permit Conditions
 - 3) CRM Permit Application Final Determination
- B. Project: LUCKING HOTEL The USA Fanter Corp., Ltd. is proposing to construct a four-story hotel building with 39 guest rooms and 28 parking stalls including 1 ADA parking. The first floor will include 28 automated parking with 1 ADA, a small office space, service elevator, water catchment, and a backup generator. The second, third, and fourth floor will each have 13 guest rooms.

CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2019-X-003

- Agencies' Discussion of Application Status
- Agencies' Permit Conditions
- **CRM Permit Application Final Determination**

OTHER MATTERS

ADJOURNMENT IV.



Commonwealth **Utilities Corporation**

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-18-032

Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 Mega Watt Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Competitive seased proposals from qualified firms for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format or USR Drive, must be submitted in a sealed one (1) original and unit (4) into opies, autor going and into expert of the proposal of a compact task in 120 rolling of the Cutor opies of envelope marked "CUC-RFF-18-032, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailler Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than January 3, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST). Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A Proposal Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of uthority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors. All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on December 14, 2018 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org, CUC-Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best

GARY CAMACHO

MANNY B. SABLAN

Ex-CUC board member claims traffic stop on him 'illegal

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board member Eric Henry Cruz San Nicolas insists that his arrest in the early morning hours of July 28 for alleged traffic violations—including driving under the influence—arose from a police officer's illegal traffic stop.

San Nicolas, through assistant public defender Jean Pierre Nogues, cited the 4th Amendment and 14th Amendment of the U.S. and CNMI Constitutions to ask the Superior Court to suppress all evidence arising from the traffic stop in Koblerville.

Alternatively, San Nicolas asked the court to hold a pretrial evidentiary hearing on the illegal stop issue.

Police officer Rudolpho Hermosilla Jr. had cited San Nicolas for driving while under the influence and refusal to submit to a breath test.

In San Nicolas' motion to suppress filed last week, Nogues said that, according to a report by Hermosilla himself, Stephanie Borja told DPS on July 28 at 1:30am that her cell phone and car keys have been stolen by her boyfriend, San Nicolas.

Nogues said Borja also alleged that San Nicolas was drunk at the time, gave a license plate for her car, and indicated she lives along Tinaktak Drive in Koblerville.

Nogues said that, according to Hermosilla, he was parked on or near Tinaktak Drive at 3:24am that same day when he saw the vehicle that Borja had reported.

Nogues said the vehicle was moving on Tinaktak Drive.

Nogues said the officer made a violation stop of the vehicle. It appears, the lawyer said, that the sole basis for the

"violation stop" was Borja's allegations made two hours earlier that San Nicolas had "stolen" her car keys and "was intoxicated.'

After San Nicolas was stopped, he was then

Nogues said the 4th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution grants "the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses papers, and effects, against

arrested for DUI.

unreasonable searches and seizures." The defense counsel said the CNMI has incorporated these same rights against through Article I, Section 3 of the CNMI Constitution.

Nogues said the officer cited San Nicolas only for traffic violations and not for theft., nor did the officer's report indicate seeing San Nicolas drunk or driving recklessly.

"The sole basis for the stop appears to be the accusations allegedly made by Stephanie Borja two hours earlier," Nogues said.

He said a hearsay allegation that a person was drunk is not a basis to pull over a vehicle.

> San Nicolas' bench trial was set for Thursday last week. He, however, asserted that given the filing of his motions to suppress and to compel, he anticipates that the court will decide to con-

duct Thursday's appearance as a conference or argument upon a question of law rather than bench trial

San Nicolas requested to waive his presence at last Thursday's hearing.

San Nicolas said that he has been offered a job as the crisis counseling team leader for the Tinian Health Center, to start immediately. San Nicolas said he was instructed to report to work on the morning of last

San Nicolas said DPS, however, informed the woman that no matter what she says, if she does not want to, they will file



San Nicolas

Guam governor-elect wants cockfighting to remain legal

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)— Cockfighting is an important Guam tradition that must remain legal, the U.S. territory's governor-elect said in vowing to work to repeal a ban imposed by the U.S. government.

While cockfighting is illegal in all 50 states, territories have been allowed to set their own rules on the activity, which involves placing bets on the outcome of fights between roosters with razors strapped to their legs. President Donald Trump has already signed the bill last week.

"Cockfighting has historical significance on Guam and continues to be a regulated practice today," said Gov.elect Lou Leon Guerrero, who

takes office Jan. 7. "Despite our community's collective efforts in expressing clear opposition to such a ban at the highest levels of government, we were once again ignored."

Annie Harvilicz, president of the Animal Wellness Foundation, has called staged animal fights "disgraceful and barbaric."

Wednesday for two days of job training.

In order to attend the full job training, San Nicolas said he would be unable to travel to Saipan to attend last Thursday's hearing.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho allowed him not to attend Thursday's hearing.

Despite his traffic case, San Nicolas ran as an independent candidate for the Tinian Senate seat last Nov. 13. He did not win.

Asked for comments about his arrest for DUI when he filed his candidacy last July 28, San Nicolas said he is innocent until proven guilty, stressing that he will fight the DUI citation in court because he was not under the influence.

On the theft call, he said the woman who filed the complaint informed the Department of Public Safety that she has no intention of filing anything.

the complaint.





During the shutdown of the federal government due to the lapse of appropriations, national parks will remain as accessible as possible while still following all applicable laws and procedures. Park roads, walking paths, memorials, and the tennis court at American Memorial Park, will remain accessible to visitors, but emergency and rescue services will be limited.

Thanks to a generous donation by its partner, Pacific Historic Parks, the visitor center and bookstore will remain open, with adjusted hours of operations that least impact visitor services. The visitor center will be open from 9:30am to 4pm, except on the following days—Dec.

2019—when it will be closed. The adjusted dates and

times are subject to change throughout the duration of the federal government shutdown.

Because of the shutdown trash removal throughout the park will be minimal.

The community is asked to take their trash with them when leaving park grounds to ensure a clean and healthy environment for all to enjoy.

Please also be advised during the federal government shutdown, National Park Service social media and websites are not being monitored or updated and may not reflect current conditions. For updates on the shutdown, visit www. doi.gov/shutdown. (NPS)





Marianas wins study abroad destination award

The Marianas was recognized last Dec. 14 as one of the Top 10 Study Abroad Destinations at the 2018 Education Industry Summit in Beijing, China.

The Top 10 Study Abroad Destinations Awards list included the Marianas, Flanders in Belgium, Great Britain, Holland, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, and the United States mainland, in no particular order.

"Educational tourism is a lucrative branch of the industry and has great potential for the Marianas, as evidenced



by this month's award," said managing director Christopher Marianas Visitors Authority

A. Concepcion. "We are very

pleased to be counted along

use their data to share, stream,

like, love, and play all around

the world. IT&E announced

yesterday the expansion of its

Mobile Passport services to

Mobile Passport is an alter-

native to costly roaming, swap-

ping SIM cards, and allows for

easy transition while traveling.

Subscribers can use their local

data buckets for as low as \$10 a

available in the United States,

the Philippines, Japan, South

Korea, Hong Kong, Thailand,

Singapore, Taiwan, Austria,

United Kingdom, Cambodia,

The service is now also

even more destinations.

day when they travel.

Marianas Visitors Authority China marketing specialist Serena Han, second left, accepts the Top 10 Study Abroad Destinations award presented to the Marianas at the 2018 Education Industry Summit on Dec. 14, 2018, in Beijing, China.

with very large countries as one of the best destinations offering educational tourism, and we welcome the opportunity to partner with our Marianas education institutions to further grow this industry."

The 2018 Education Indus-

try Summit Meeting of "New Change New Power" gathered experts of politics and business fields for in-depth discussions on new policies, new technologies and new models that have emerged in the past year. Participants also discussed how education industry will develop in the future under the influence of new changes and new power.

The summit was organized by leading education industrial portal Juesheng.net and Chinese search engine Baidu. (MVA)

Man allegedly involved in fatal hit-and-run posts bail

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com

Esekiel Smith, who allegedly killed a young man in a hitand-run incident, has completed all the conditions of his release and was scheduled to post his bail last Friday.

The 30-year-old Smith surrendered his passport to the Superior Court during his pretrial conference last Wednesday. The surrendering of his passport was the only condition holding him back from posting bail.

Smith was required to surrender his passport. If he violates any of the court's condibe required to post a \$98,000 unsecured or appearance bond.

Smith, who allegedly hit a man with his car and left him by the side of the road in August, was scheduled to post a \$2,000 bail Friday at the Superior Court before he can be released. It was not immediately learned if he did so but unofficial reports said he was going to do so.

Smith's jury trial is still set for March 11, 2019.

According to Saipan Tribune archives, on Aug. 19, 2018 at approximately 3:37am, a man on a car was

tions, he or his custodians will heading north when he noticed a man lying on the ground adjacent to the Commonwealth Utility Corp. power plant. He stopped to call the Department of Public Safety. Police reported that the victim had injuries, was unconscious, and was partially lying on the shoulder of the northbound outer lane.

> Medics arrived shortly after and rushed the victim to the Commonwealth Health Center where he was pronounced dead at 4:01am.

> On Aug. 20, at 2:32pm, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio set Smith's bail at \$100,000.

IT&E expands 'Mobile Passport' for subscribers when traveling abroad IT&E subscribers can now and Australia.

> "Whether you're looking for a nearby restaurant with Google Maps, checking your iMessages, or using your bank's mobile app, mobile data is often a must when traveling for pleasure or for work," said Angela Rosario, director of Product Development and Marketing at IT&E. "Mobile Passport is a super convenient and easy way to stay connected while traveling. Now that we've added more destinations, we're empowering our subscribers to do more on their phones in more places."

> Kevin Diego, principal, Global Roaming & Device Technology, Wireless Net-

works, said: "Our global footprint continues to give our customers the strongest coverage at affordable rates. We are partnered with premier networks to provide the highest level of quality and performance for customers abroad."

Subscribers will automatically connect to data roaming services with Mobile Passport rates once they reach their destination. It's available on all postpaid plans, including IT&E's unlimited data plan, Freedom, and stackable unlimited plan, Freedom Plus.

Subscribers can also top-up their data buckets abroad via



Commonwealth **Utilities Corporation**

Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Repair of CUC Power Plant No. 2 Building Structure, Lower Base, Saipan, CNMI

CUC-RFP-19-001

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Repair of CUC Power Plant No. 2 Building Structure, Saipan, Lower Base, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The work includes replacement of various building elements which were damaged due to the Typhoon Soudelor and also additional work required to strengther the facility for improving its integrity with a view of withstanding elements of nature. CUC has performed partial work under an ongoing contract with another

This project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from the above mentioned funding agencies.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in 150 calendar days from the date of issuance of the Notice to Proceed

Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$150.00 for one RFP package set.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be scheduled on **December 18, 2018 at 10,00 am (ChST)**, at the power plant conference room, followed by a site visit. All attendees are required to arrive with appropriate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). **The attendance in the conference and site visit is mandatory to ensure that the parties are fully familiar with the existing site conditions.**

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-19-001 - Repair of CUC Power Plant No. 2 Building Structure, Saipan, Lower Base, CNMI", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 4, 2019. Late submissions and conditional Proposals will not be considered. Proposal shall be submitted on the provided Proposal Forms. Proposers are required to complete all Proposal Forms. Proposers may supplement the form as opriate. Proposals will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 90 days after submission

A Proposal Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total Proposal price must accompany the Proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check cashier's check, or Proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Discussions may be conducted with responsive offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 Am (ChST) on December 19, 2018 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny-sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugo Prabhakara, CUC Project Manager – via email venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Senior Purchasing Assistant-via email christie

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and waive any imperfection in the Proposal in the best interest of the government. All Proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO MANNY B. SABLAN



Commonwealth **Utilities Corporation**



Office of the Executive Director

CUC-RFP-19-002 **LEASE OF OFFICE SPACE FOR CUC**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

ROTA ADMINISTRATION & OPERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms for the lease of office space for CUC Administration and Operation, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed office space must conform to American Disabilities Act (ADA), OSHA and CNMI Zoning regulation.

The RFP package may be obtained at the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section (Saipan, Tinian or Rota), by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$20.00 for one RFP package set. The RFP package will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered Proponents email ID. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division to be considered.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-19-002, Lease of Office Space for CUC Rota Administration & Operation" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 7, 2019. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to produce or contract for services

Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on December 21, 2018 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christie Sablan, Senior Purchasing Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO

MANNY B. SABLAN

CHC Pediatric ward gets toys, books

By ERWIN ENCINARES erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com

Patients of the Commonwealth Health Center Pediatric Ward may expect a free toy along with books in their visit to the ward.

The CHC Pediatric Ward received last week 10 toys and a total of 35 books from a motorcycle club from Salem, Oregon, known as the Taga Riders Forever.

"This year they donated [toys] and also [35 children's books]," said CHC administrator Jesse Tudela, noting that last year, club founders George and Terry Camacho donated a similar Christmas gift to the ward.

"They have been giving gifts from stateside to Saipan for many years now," Tudela said. He added that Camacho contacted him a few weeks ago to tell him to expect a package before Christmas.

"He wanted to make sure that we received it and that every pediatric patient would get one," he said, adding that last year's donation from the motorcycle club has already been handed

out to pediatric patients.

"When you have kids that are sick, you would like to cheer them up—it's never fun [for them] to be in the hospital so having these gifts are much appreciated," Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña said in an interview.

"We are always grateful for the donations because the kids love them," she added. "The whole purpose is wellness and trying them to get them out healthy. We never want to

CUC restoration resumes after Christmas

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s restoration operations resumed yesterday, Dec. 26, 2018.

CUC was closed last Tuesday, Dec. 25, in observance of Christmas Day and to allow the restoration crews to take off to observe the holidays with their families.

"CUC appreciates the public's cooperation throughout this restoration period and will continue to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers

For more information, contact the CUC Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/ CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). (PR)

Horecky is named Guam realtor of the year

The Guam Association of Realtors has named Frederick J. Horecky as its Realtor of the Year for 2018.

In a statement yesterday, the association said that, Horecky, who is also a lawyer, "is a wellrounded individual who exudes excellence as a realtor, with numerous accomplishments within our local and business communities." (Saipan Tribune)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Guam Association of Realtors has named Frederick J. Horecky as its Realtor of the Year for 2018.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. hospital administrator Jesse Tudela poses with pediatric ward staff and the Taga Riders Forever Motorcycle Club donations last Thursday.

see a child in the hospital but if they do [end up in the hospital], we want to make sure this is a part of their healing," Muña further noted.

Tudela said the donation is in line with CHCC promoting a healthy and literate community.

As of last week, there were no patients at the pediatric ward.



10 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Opinion



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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Hasty Syria withdrawal means 'Merry Christmas' for Vladimir Putin

ike so many people in this country, we are struggling to wrap our minds around President Donald Trump's dizzying decision to pull our troops out of Syria.

This is good news only if you are the leader of a despotic or autocratic nation with interests in Syria or one

of the terrorist groups longing to regain control.

No less an autocrat than Russian President Vladimir Putin himself thank "Donald" for the Christmas gift.

President Trump ignored warnings against this decision from Secretary of Defense James Mattis, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and National Security Advisor John Bolton, all of whom said the move would signal a retreat from the region that will embolden ISIS and give adversarial nations such as Iran more influence.

Putin, who helped tip the Syrian civil war in favor of Bashar al-Assad and was then able to establish a Russian presence in the Middle East for the first time in decades, will now enjoy the greater influence it attained knowing an American presence will no longer reside in Syria. We can't help but also think this also gives Iran a strategic upper hand as it propped up Syria. Iran will now feel emboldened to create a greater threat to our only ally in the region, Israel, and to shore up its effort to become a regional hegemon.

There's also the question of what this means for our Kurdish allies—the people who sacrificed bravely to help us in Iraq. They are under constant threat from the north by Turkish forces and will now be susceptible to al-Assad's government in the south. How can they see this as anything but an abandonment by the United States?

As for ISIS, the president appears to talk out of both sides of his mouth. In the video announcing the U.S. withdrawal from Syria, Trump declared, "We have won against ISIS," but hours later said Russia, Syrian and Iran "will have to fight ISIS." The reality is, while the ISIS nation-state it tried to build is in ruins, ISIS the terrorist organization still has thousands of fighters in Syria.

It appears nothing good can come from Trump's ill-informed decision. He may even get some political mileage from the decision as he has managed to frame it as an "America first" issue and one over the expenditure of money but the costs go beyond dollar bills. When an adversary like Putin says the decision to withdraw forces "is the correct one," it's not hard to determine Putin sees it as a positivefor him.

Perhaps one day, President Trump will learn the United States doesn't exist as a global leader for the purpose of monetary rewards. We have a role in checking the power of Russia, Syria and Iran. Trump's decision puts some of that at risk.

(c)2018 The Dallas Morning News



Facebook has 5 'core values.' Guess where 'protect users' ranks

stunning report published Tuesday revealed that Facebook provided more than 150 companies—including Microsoft, Amazon and Yahoo—far more access to users' sensitive personal information, including allegedly private messages, than previously admitted. The disappointing details, reported by The New York Times, call to mind the sage observation of poet Maya Angelou: "When someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time."

In every company there is some gap between professed core values and the lived values that actually guide decisions and actions. The best companies are mindful of those values gaps and take steps to narrow them. But Facebook is not among the best companies where protection of users' sensitive personal information is concerned.

The company's history is riddled with data privacy scandals, most recently allowing political data firm Cambridge Analytica to access personal data from more than 50 million Facebook users in an effort to help Donald Trump become president. After each scandal those of us who use Facebook for want of a morally better alternative to staying in touch with friends and family members hope the company will finally do the right thing—i.e., protect users' personal information—if only for the wrong reason—i.e., because it has to rather than because it wants to. But in light of the Times report, we apparently hope in vain.

Facebook's five professed core values—as described on its website and in a letter from chief executive Mark Zuckerberg in the prospectus filed ahead of the company's initial public offering—are as follows: be bold; focus on impact; move fast; be open; and build social value.

Protecting users' private data is not even among those core values, which is as glaring an omission as it would be if "build quality aircraft" were not among the core values of Boeing. And Facebook's lived values are at odds with its stated values.

"Be bold" involves taking the risks needed to accomplish great things in a rapidly changing world. But while boldness can be a virtue, recklessness is a character flaw, and actions detailed in the Times report suggest Facebook's actual value is "Be reckless."

According to reports, the controversial "People You May Know" feature that Facebook introduced in 2008 recklessly recommended friend connections between a harasser and his victim, among patients receiving care from the same psychiatrist and between a man who donated sperm secretly to a couple he knew so they could have a child and the daughter who does not know he is her father. Awkward.

"Focus on impact" aims to solve "the most important problems" and not waste time on lesser issues. In his letter, ZuckerBy JOSEPH HOLT Chicago Tribune

Joseph Holt is an ethics professor at the University of Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business. He wrote this for the Chicago Tribune.



berg writes, "We don't wake up in the morning with the primary goal of making money," but his company's (in)actions consistently suggest that data privacy is a lesser issue and that the real value is "Focus on making as much money as possible."

"Move fast" reflects the belief that moving quickly and making mistakes is better than moving slowly and missing opportunities. Interviews with former Facebook employees revealed that some executives and engineers saw newly mandated reviews of new products and features for data privacy concerns as "an impediment to quick innovation and growth." That suggests the value embedded in the company's culture is "Never let noneconomic concerns (like data privacy) get in the way of economic opportunities."

"Be open" reflects the sound belief that "informed people make better decisions." But Facebook's repeated privacy violations over the years reflect its clear preference that users remain in the dark where lax oversight of their personal information is concerned and suggest its actual value is "Be no more open than required" by law or occasional user outrage.

The final Facebook professed value is "Build social value" by bringing the world closer together. There is a tension in Zuckerberg's letter between his claim that "We've always cared primarily about our social mission" and his commitment to work hard to make shares purchased by new investors in the IPO "worth a lot."

I suspect Zuckerberg does care about bringing people together, but only secondarily. His company's actions consistently suggest its actual value is "Bringing people closer together is a nice plus" but not as important as making as much money as possible for ourselves and our investors.

Facebook leaders have once again shown us who they are, and I for one believe them. I would readily leave their platform for a new social network that brings people closer together as well as Facebook does while zealously guarding users' sensitive personal information. And I believe that many other increasingly disillusioned Facebook users would readily do the same. Who will be our entrepreneurial hero?

Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

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Fina pus 40!

ke ta gobietnan maise hit. Guaha siha fina` ditension .chinatsaga lau satbayun.

Yangin guaha adelantun ekonomia haf na ti kinubre nesessidat 15-mit na empleau ni gumagana suetdun popble (poverty income)?

Malag manu i adelantun ekonomia yan haf na ti mattu gi monedan familia para fahan nesessidat niha?

Ti maput matranslada definasion ekonomia: kualidat linala' gi tanu'. Kau felis i asuntu gaige gi patman kanai manma'gas!

Baba monedan familia ya `in rikonose kau guaha hatsada ni umadelanta fuetsa-mu mamahan nesessidat siha. Debi u saunau monedan familia gi anunsiau na adelantun ekonomia.

Puede i sigiente 40 añus u guaha mas fotmat na planu siha gi dichu obligasion: adelantun kualidat na linala` natibu guine siha na petlas.

Inadahe: Mauleg ta ketuñgu kuantu totat dibita pot para ta adahe kontra maribahan aduana (tax) ginen destrosiun pagyu.

Diskuidu i para ta kalumnia na todu i tiempu guaha fondu gi kaha. Presisu na infotmasion gi disposision fiñkas. Ha sedi hit sumusteni i mas manpresisu siha na setbisiun publiku tat kumu hospitat van edukasion.

Presisu lokue` ta ina i \$26 miyon na dibin hospitat segun i repot gaseta. Dañkulu patteña dibin CUC guine na kuenta. Debi u suanu na ininan asuntu para ta asegura na nahuñg fondun operasion gi uniku hospitat publiku.

I otru setbisiu pot edukasion famaguon Marianas. Estague` otru dañkulu na gastu pot famaguon-ta. Gi hilu' sattun na inadahe libianu ta prebeniye dos setbisiu fondu pot adelantun tautau-ta.

Dibina: Relasion yan Japones ilegniha na masge pot "este yan ayu" lau ni unu gi dos. Puru che chu apotsu gi halum destrosiau na relasion ni gai minakat ma-aregla tatte dispues de nobenta siha na sakan.

Sentidu i asuntu ni ta diskuida hit kulan mohon hagas milag hanum sisonyan. No señot! Gasgas yan mames i hanum ni hagas ta batga hit sin inadahe.

Muñga mana' maput: Debi u guaha suanu yan mehnalum na modun relasion yan mandañkulu siha na inbetsionistas (investors) Japon.

Gi hilu` inakomprende libianu ta adelanta kinalamten i praibet ni prumebeniniye fondu para gastun setbisiun publiku. 'An homlu' i kinalamten praibet, esdesit ekonomia, mas libianu ta apase gastun setbisiun publiku siha. Sin este seguru na fuetsau mahatsa i tax empleau.

Kuttura: Sige kinalamten entalu` Guahan yan Marianas para umanana'lu tatte kutturan Chamorro. Mauleg na intension lau kau ta danche i pituma guine na pinetsige? Kau che'chu' "ma-

Kuestion: Hafa sessu ta petsisige gi este na asuntu? Sin klaru na definasion haf i puntu? Mauleg ta bira hit tatte ya ta pega kalulot-

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Drug testing for govt employees

Dear Mr. Duponcheel: As you know, when I testified at your confirmation hearing on Tinian, I recommended it was time to change the drug testing rules and regulations for government employment, and the majority of the Tinian Legislative Delegation agreed.

Cannabis has been effectively decriminalized by the new cannabis law. With new administrations taking office on Saipan, Tinian, and the Northern Islands in the very near future, many existing positions will be filled by new employees. As it stands today, each will be required to take a drug test and if they test positive for cannabis, they will not only be refused employment but also be labeled with the stigma of breaking CNMI law. This is wrong.

I am hoping you will address this issue at your next Cannabis Commission meeting and recommend to the CNMI Legislature that the administrative procedures be amended to reflect the intent of the new law, removing cannabis from the list of illegal drugs identified for pre-employment testing.

Thank you, and we all wish you and the rest of the commission the best as you establish the new rules and regulations decriminalizing cannabis in the CNMI.

Don Farrell Marpo Heights, Tinian

amayot patte felis hinanau-ta gi halum 40 añus deste ta gi klaru na definasion pinetsige. 'An taya' direksion megaiña siempre na difirensiau na puettu 'nai humalum galaide'ta.

> Dispensu: Sige dos amigu luchan para Chalan Kanoa yan sinaken niha dos petnan guaka. Era masaulag ga` tautau nobiyu ni masoda` mapapastu gi kantun chalan giya Magpi`

> Guminen i tata i draiba gi menan Guma' Yuus. Finaisen ni amiguña haf bidadaña. Ilegña ginagau dispensu. Kinepbla, "Haf na dispensu?" Ineppi, "I dos petnan guaka guennau tatte!" A'Saina!

Maliñgu: Maliñgu ga`ña guaka i amku` 'nai sumugu' gi Guma` Yuus Antonio mamaisen ayudu. Todu dia ha espiha i ga`ña lau tiha soda`. Hiniñgug ni un` tanores na sige fumofu.

Malagu i patgon ya ha tulaika i dañkulu na buttun San Antonio yan un` dikiki`. `Nai mattu i lancheru sige ha sague` machiteña. Hali`e mona i dikiki` na buttu.

Ha faisen, "Hey, boy, mañgge si tatamu?" Ineppi ni tanores, "Humanau `nai puñiteru para u aligau i ga`mu guaka." Buena!

Diniskuttura: Hu huñgug un` prohimu sige kumuentus kulan finu' Chamorro ni ti komprendiyun. Dimas, puru finatinasña lamayot palabra ni guiya solu tumuñgu'. Hu faisen haf' na liñguahe ha u`usa. Ha oppe-yu` na finu` Chamorro.

Tihu tuñgu` kau "dialect" mina` tihu komprende fino`ña. Lau mampus chagu` yan otdinariu na finu` Chamorro. Guiya ayu na

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/ her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



finu' Chamorro i ma-apotsu' pot apmam man-finu' Eñglis!

Gi karera maliñgu ni hila` nanaña ni hu fanana`an "diniskuttura". Kuttura i modun linala' grupun tautau. I liñguahe sahyan kuttura. Sin este na sahyan ti un' soda' safu na puettun kuttura.

Gamla: Ha saibog i asaguahu dagun' apaka' ni mana'en mame. Hu repara na esta "gamla" lau hu usune pot yahu na `agun tanu`.

Un' 'agun ni sumen mañge' i nika lau hasan tasoda' na tiempu. Enfin, 'an malagu hau' sumaibog dagu famaisen gi lancheria kau guaha sopblan Noche Buena. Paire na 'agun ni alimentosu!

Maseha dididi` atrasau: Felis Noche Buena para todu! Si JR yan Familia.

Mattis' truth-telling resignation

esignation letters can be rants. Meltdowns. But mostly they're boilerplate. One job site advises quitters to be brief, not to burn bridges, and—this above all-"Don't tell the whole truth in your exit interview."

For once, Defense Secretary James N. Mattis broke a rule. When the former Marine Corps four-star general and head of Central Command tendered his resignation to President Donald Trump last week, he told the whole truth.

In his elegant, elegiac and deceptively simple letter, Mattis outlined his core beliefs about global security.

The letter merits a close look, but not because it's brilliantly original. Instead, the brief essay takes a steely tone to reiterate with absolute clarity America's bedrock commitments in the post-World War II international order.

Protect the free world against expansionist authoritarianism.

Was that so hard? Reasonable people can differ on tactics and some preach isolationism. But Mattis' line covers even those who prefer to pull in the drawbridges; it is an entirely credible and complete statement of postwar American resolution.

And that's why Mattis' letter is a vitally necessary document. It evokes the common sense, wisdom and competence that the American people have been starved for over the last two years. Our upside-down nation has almost forgotten what a disciplined and principled approach to national security sounds like.

(If you want more discipline and principles, read a paper Mattis cites in his letter: "2018 National Defense Strategy of the United States: Sharpening the Military Edge." It's thoughtful, thorough, and there's nothing in it about mafia rats or smocking guns.)

Daily, Americans who deserve better are subject to the president's onslaught of vile, tweeted gibberish. But in two long years, we haven't ever heard the White House authoritatively state the nation's once-firm position on global security.

In plain view, and flamboyantly, Trump has spited our allies and bowed and scraped before authoritarians, including his favorite, Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Ever-mindful of Trump's mounting sycophancy to Putin and other autocrats, Mattis discovered last week that he must distance himself from our compromised president.

Unlike Trump, Mattis makes clear, he is not a lost patsy or puppet. In no uncertain terms, he writes in his defense strategy statement that China and Russia are seeking to control Europe and the Middle East with authoritarian measures and new forms of warfare, including election hacking. These two nations, Mattis writes, pose "the central challenge to U.S. prosperity and security."

That's right. The central challenge to peace and prosperity. Not Canada, Europe, CNN or Amazon. What's more, undernourished asylum-seekers from Mexico and Central America don't endanger the peace either.

Trump pleased the Kremlin last week by withdrawing troops from Syria and lifting economic sanctions on Putin's billionaire pal Oleg Deripaska. But what makes the Russian president happy terrifies what's left of the free world. And, unmistakably, it **By VIRGINIA HEFFERNAN** Los Angeles Times



also terrifies Mattis.

Americans can be forgiven if they no longer remember what dignity and rationality sound like in public life; the Mattis letter jogs our collective memory. But it has arrived right at the edge of too late

Mattis is a famously cerebral Marine, literate and urbane. He carried a copy of Marcus Aurelius' "Meditations" to his deployments in the Persian Gulf and Iraq, including both battles of Fallujah. There's considerable irony in his nom de guerre, "Mad Dog," which may have endeared him to the tacky president but doesn't remotely capture a man of Mattis' even temperament and wide learning.

Given all that, his letter is tinged with sadness, a palpable grief for the old American moral and philosophical values, and for his inability, finally, to successfully defend them on his own, the last serious and decent public servant in the White House. It's heartbreaking—but human—that there's a note of real resignation in Mattis' resignation letter.

On Friday, news broke that Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who is 85, had had surgery to remove malignant nodules on her lungs. Her doctors said there was "no evidence of any remaining disease" after the surgery, and others hastened to add that that doesn't mean it won't show up again.

Ginsburg's sudden frailty and Mattis' departure are reminders that although we may be a nation of laws and not individuals, there are certain individuals in government who serve as bulwarks against both autocracy and anarchy.

Mattis is certainly one, and Ginsburg is another. And, as Mattis showed last week, they can't be expected to sacrifice themselves in Trump's one-man civil war.

We need more like Mattis and Ginsburg, a general and a jurist who have each sworn an oath to the nation's laws and ideals. Whatever your politics, you believe they meant it. There are some pacts between the people and the government that even this reckless president can't break.

Mattis' mentor Marcus Aurelius wrote instructions that suit our nation and its leadership this dark December: "Do not act as if you were going to live 10,000 years. Death hangs over you. While you live, while it is in your power, be good."

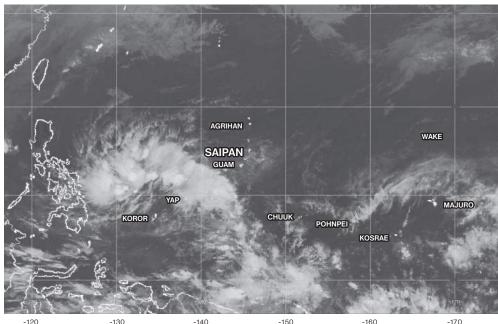
To endure the president's next perfidy, and the next and the next, is going to demand all the idealism, honesty, goodness and patriotism left in the exhausted American people.

12 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY	FRIDAY	FRIDAY SATURDAY S		MONDAY					
- & -	·à:	·à:	·à:	·à:					
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.								
87° 78°	87º 78º	87º 77º	88° 77°	88° 77°					

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:28 AM, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Only a few tweaks made to the forecast. This morning's radar showed only isolated trade-wind showers over the Marianas. Models keep the weather relatively dry through at least the weekend with only isolated showers expected. Did add some clouds on Monday as a few of the models hint at a shear line making it into the local area. VAD winds at 2 and 3 kft were between 25 to 30 knots. There may be breezy conditions this morning but models show winds decreasing afternoon.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	A	▲ ▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 81°

Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 81°
AROUND TH	F GLOBE	≜ ♥°F
Auckland	Rain	72° / 61°
Beijing	Sunny	28° / 9°
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	70° / 54°
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	82° / 70°
London	Cloudy	45° / 36°
Los Angeles	Sunny	65° / 44°
Manila	Rain	81° / 73°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	91° / 75°
Miami	Cloudy	78° / 74°
New York	Partly Cloudy	42° / 37°
Osaka	Mixed	43° / 36°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	41° / 28°
Busan	Sunny	36° / 21°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	57° / 37°
Salem	Rain	62° / 60°
San Francisco	Sunny	57° / 46°
Seoul	Sunny	23° / 9°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	46° / 39°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	50° / 44°



Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone ■*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIP	AN HARBOR TO	DAY FEET
5:00 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.43
12:05 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.05
6:00 PM	LOW TIDE	1.06
10:37 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.74

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:40 AM	5:54 PM
Friday	6:41 AM	5:55 PM
Saturday	6:41 AM	5:55 PM
Sunday	6:42 AM	5:56 PM
Monday	6:42 AM	5:57 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:37 AM	10:38 PM
Friday	-	11:25 AM	11:36 PM
Saturday	-	12:09 AM	-
Sunday	12:31 AM	12:52 PM	-
Monday	1:24 AM	1:34 PM	-

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	DEPAR	TURES			ARRI	IVALS	
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7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	Daily	7C3452	·	2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEO	UL (ICN)			7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1
0Z626		6:00am	1	SEOUL (ICN)	-SAIPAN		
0Z626	2:50am		2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402 0Z625		1:00am+1	Daily 7
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	0Z625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
TEMPORARI	LY SUSP	ENDED:		TEMPORAD	u v cuco		3, 0
TW9308		4:10am	3, 4	TEMPORAR			0.0
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7C3403	4:35am		Daily	TW307 TW9307	9:00pm	12:35am+1 2:20am+1	
				TW9307 7C3404		:25am+1 3:40am+1	4 Daily
SAIPAN-SHA	NGHAI (I	PVG)		SHANGHAI ((PVG)-SAI	PAN	
3U86486:10am	8:5	0am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HAN	IGZHOU ((HGH)		HANGZHOU	(HGH)-SA	IPAN	
JD396 JD396		11:00am 7:55pm	1 4	JD395 JD395	8:05am 9:35pm	3:30pm 5:00am+1	4 7
SAIPAN-GUA	NGZHOU	I (CAN)		GUANGZHO	u (CAN)-S	AIPAN	
3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6	3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEI.	JING (PEI	K)		BEIJING (PE	K)-SAIPA	N	
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MAI	NILA (MN	L)		MANILA (MI	NL)-SAIPA	N	
UA117/183 UA117/183 via GUM		9:50pm	2, 5 via GUM 1, 3, 4, 6, 7	UA182/174 PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1 8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM Daily via GUM
UA117/193 GUM-ROR		11:50pm	2, 5 via	UA192/174	·	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/183 UA105/183	4:45pm 4:45pm	9:40pm 9:50pm	2 via GUM 4 via GUM	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HON	NG KONG	(HKG)		HONG KONG	i (HKG)-S	AIPAN	
HX077 0Z626/721 0Z626/721	2:10am 2:50am	5:15am 11:50am 11:50am 8:40am	1, 4 1 via ICN 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	0Z722/625 0Z722/625 HX076	1:15pm 5:15pm	1:00am+1 1:40am+1 12:15am+1	
UO43 UA117/159 UA105/159	9:15am	8:40am 11:00pm 11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 7 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM 2, 4 via GUM	U042 U042 UA116/174 UA116/174	9:30pm 11:45pm	1:45am+1 4:25am+1 8:11am+1 8:11am+1	7 2, 4, 6 2, 4 via GUM 1, 3, 5, 6
		·		Thursday (4) Fr			via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN 1 FLIGHT # 1301 1302 1303	TO ROTA DEPARTURE 7:30AM 11:30AM 4:00PM	ARRIVAL 8:00AM 12:00PM 4:30PM	FREQUENCY Daily Daily Daily	1203 1204 1205 1206 1207 1208	9:00AM 10:00AM 11:00AM 12:00PM 1:00PM 2:00PM	9:15AM 10:15AM 11:15AM 12:15PM 1:15PM 2:15PM	Daily Daily Daily Daily Daily Daily
ROTA TO FLIGHT # 3101 3102 3103	SAIPAN DEPARTURE 8:15AM 1:45PM 4:45PM	ARRIVAL 8:45AM 2:15PM 5:15PM	FREQUENCY Daily Daily Daily	1209 1210 1211 1212 TINIAN T	3:00PM 4:00PM 5:00PM 6:00PM	3:15PM 4:15PM 5:15PM 6:15PM	Daily Daily Daily Daily
ROTA TO FLIGHT # 3401	DEPARTURE 12:15PM	ARRIVAL 12:45PM	FREQUENCY Daily	FLIGHT # 2102 2103 2104 2105	7:30AM 8:30AM 9:30AM 10:30AM	ARRIVAL 7:45AM 8:45AM 9:45AM 10:45AM	FREQUENCY Daily Daily Daily Daily
FLIGHT # 4301 SAIPAN 1 FLIGHT # 1201	DEPARTURE 1:00PM TO TINIAN DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL 1:30PM	FREQUENCY Daily FREQUENCY	2106 2107 2108 2109 2110 2111	11:30AM 12:30PM 1:30PM 2:30PM 3:30PM 4:30PM	11:45AM 12:45PM 1:45PM 2:45PM 3:45PM 4:45PM	Daily Daily Daily Daily Daily Daily
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Business

Koreas break ground on railways

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North and South Korea broke ground Wednesday on an ambitious project to modernize North Korean railways and roads and connect them with the South, but without progress in nuclear negotiations, regular trains won't be crossing the border anytime soon.

The ceremony at the North Korean border town of Kaesong came weeks after the Koreas conduct
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ed a joint survey on the northern railway sections

But sanctions block project

they hope to someday link with the South. It's one of several peace gestures agreed between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and liberal South Korean President Moon Jae-in as they push ahead with engagement amid a stalemate in larger nuclear negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang.

But beyond on-site reviews and ceremonies, the Koreas cannot move much further along without the removal of U.S.-led sanctions against the North.

A South Korean train carrying about 100 people — including government officials, lawmakers and aging relatives separated by the 1950-53 Korean War — rolled into the North Korean border town of Kaesong, where they were greeted by North Koreans in-

cluding Ri Son Gwon, who heads an agency dealing with inter-Korean affairs.

North and South Korean officials signed a wooden railroad tie, unveiled a new signboard and observed a ceremonial connecting of northern and southern tracks at Kaesong's Panmun Station, according to South Korea's Unification Ministry.

Officials from China and Russia were also invited to witness the sym-

witness the symbolic start of an ambitious project Seoul hopes will

one day link South Korea with the Trans-China and Trans-Siberian railways. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, executive secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, also attended, according to the South Korean ministry.

The Seoul government plans to conduct further surveys on North Korean railways and roads before drawing up a detailed blueprint for the project. Actual construction will proceed depending on the progress in the North's denuclearization and the state of sanctions against the country, the ministry said.

"We plan to hold detailed negotiations with the North to coordinate on the specific levels we want to achieve in the modernization of railways and roads and how to carry out the project," said Eugene Lee, the ministry's spokeswoman.

Even if the North takes concrete steps toward denuclearization and gains sanctions relief, some experts say updating North Korean rail network could take decades and massive investment.

Seoul said it received an exemption to sanctions from the U.N. Security Council to proceed with Wednesday's ceremony as it involved South Korean transport vehicles and goods. The Koreas' joint survey of North Korean railways in November, which also required U.N. approval, marked the first time a South Korean train traveled on North Korean tracks.

The Koreas in December 2007 began freight services between South Korea's Munsan Station in Paju and the North's Panmun Station to support operations at a now-shuttered joint factory park in Kaesong. The South used the trains to move construction materials north, while clothing and shoes made at the factory park were sent south. The line was cut in November 2008 due to tensions over North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

The Kaesong factory park was shut down under the South's previous conservative government in February 2016 following a North Korean nuclear test and long-range rocket launch.

Japan will resume commercial whaling, but not in Antarctic

TOKYO (AP)—Japan announced Wednesday it is leaving the International Whaling Commission to resume hunting the animals for commercial use but said it will no longer go to the Antarctic for its much-criticized annual killings of hundreds of whales.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said the hunts will be limited to Japan's territorial waters and its 200-mile exclusive economic zone along the country's coasts, and that Japan will stop its annual whaling expeditions to the Antarctic and northwest Pacific oceans.

Japan will resume commercial whaling in July 2019 after a 30-year absence "in line with Japan's basic policy of promoting sustainable use of aquatic living resources based on scientific evidence," he said.

"Regrettably, we have reached a decision that it is impossible in the IWC to seek the coexistence of states with different views," Suga said.

Suga said the IWC has been dominated by conservationists and Japan was disappointed

over its efforts to manage whale stocks even though the IWC has a treaty mandate for both whale conservation and development of the whaling industry.

The IWC imposed a commercial moratorium in the 1980s due to a dwindling whale population. Japan switched to what it calls research whaling and says stocks have recovered enough to resume commercial hunt. The research program was criticized as a cover for commercial hunting as the meat is sold on the market at home.

Environmental group Greenpeace condemned the decision and disputed Japan's view that whale stocks have recovered, noting also that ocean life is being threated by pollution as well as overfishing.

"The declaration today is out of step with the international community, let alone the protection needed to safeguard the future of our oceans and these majestic creatures. The government of Japan must urgently act to conserve marine ecosystems, rather than resume commercial whaling," Sam Annesley, executive director at Greenpeace Japan, said in a statement.

Japan has hunted whales for centuries, but has reduced its catch following international protests and declining demand for whale meat at home. The withdrawal from the IWC may be a face-saving step to stop Japan's ambitious Antarctic hunts and scale down the scope of whaling to around the Japanese coasts.

Fisheries officials have said Japan annually consumes thousands of tons of whale meat from the research hunts, mainly by older Japanese seeking a nostalgic meal. But critics say they doubt commercial whaling could be a sustainable industry if Japanese young people don't see whales as food.

Suga said Japan will notify the IWC of its decision by Dec. 31 and remains committed to international cooperation on proper management of marine living resources even after its IWC withdrawal.

Nation

Trump: 'I can't tell you when' govt will reopen



President Donald Trump greets members of the five branches of the military by video conference on Christmas Day, Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2018, in the Oval Office of the White House. The military members were stationed in Guam, Qatar, Alaska, and two groups in Bahrain.

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump said Tuesday that parts of the federal government will stay closed until Democrats agree to put up more walls along the U.S.-Mexico border to deter criminal elements. He said he's open to calling the wall something else as long as he ends up with an actual wall.

In a Christmas Day appearance in the Oval Office, Trump issued a lengthy defense of his desire for a wall, saying it's the only way to stop drugs and human traffickers from entering the country. In a nod to the political stakes he's facing, Trump said he wants the wall by "election time" in 2020.

The promise of a border wall was a central component of Trump's presidential campaign.

"I can't tell you when the government's going to be open. I can tell you it's not going to be open until we have

a wall or fence, whatever they'd like to call it," Trump said, referring to Democrats who staunchly oppose walling off the border.

"I'll call it whatever they want, but it's all the same thing," he told reporters after participating in a holiday video conference with representatives from all five branches of the military stationed in Alaska, Bahrain, Guam and Qatar.

Trump argued that drug flows and human trafficking can only be stopped by a wall.

"We can't do it without a barrier. We can't do it without a wall," he said. "The only way you're going to do it is to have a physical barrier, meaning a wall. And if you don't have that then we're just not opening" the government.

Democrats oppose spending money on a wall, preferring instead to pump the dollars into fencing, technology and other means of controlling access to the border. Trump argued that Democrats oppose a wall only because he is for one.

US says 2nd Guatemalan child dies in immigration custody

HOUSTON (AP)—An 8-year-old boy from Guatemala died in government custody in New Mexico early Tuesday, U.S. immigration authorities said, marking the second death of an immigrant child in detention this month.

The death came during an ongoing dispute over border security and with a partial government shutdown underway over President Donald Trump's request for border wall funding.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection said the boy identified by the Guatemalan consul in Phoenix as Felipe Gómez Alonzo—had shown "signs of potential illness" on Monday and was taken with his father to a hospital in Alamogordo, New Mexico. He was diagnosed with a cold and a fever, prescribed amoxicillin and ibuprofen, and released Monday afternoon after being held 90 minutes for observation, the agency said.

The boy was returned to the hospital Monday evening with nausea and vomiting and died there just after midnight, CBP said.

CBP has not yet confirmed

when or where the father and son entered the United States or how long they were detained, saying only in its statement that the boy had been "previously apprehended" by its agents.

The agency said the cause of the boy's death has not been determined and that it has notified the Department of Homeland Security's inspector general and the Guatemalan government.

A 7-year-old Guatemalan girl died earlier this month after being apprehended by border agents in New Mexico. The body of the girl, Jakelin Caal, was returned to her family's remote village Monday for burial Tuesday.

The White House referred questions about the latest case to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, CBP's parent agency. CBP officers and the Border Patrol remain on the job despite the shutdown.

According to Guatemala's foreign ministry, the father and son entered the U.S. at El Paso, Texas, on Dec. 18, then were taken to the Border Patrol's Alamogordo station Sunday. Alamogordo is about

90 miles (145 kilometers) from El Paso.

Oscar Padilla, the Guatemalan consul in Phoenix, said he was told by the boy's father in a telephone interview that the two had been traveling from their home in Nentón, a village about 280 miles (450 kilometers) from Guatemala City. They were planning to go to Johnson City, Tennessee.

The consul identified the father as 47-year-old Agustin Gomez, and said he remains in U.S. Border Patrol custody.

CBP typically detains immigrants for no more than a few days when they cross the border before either releasing them or turning them over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for longer-term detention. Agency guidelines say immigrants generally shouldn't be detained for more than 72 hours in CBP holding facilities, which are usually smaller and have fewer services than ICE's detention centers.

Parents and children together are almost always released quickly due to limited space in ICE's family detention facilities. 14 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE



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Asia

Indonesia asks people to avoid coast near erupting volcano

SUMUR, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian authorities asked people near an island volcano to avoid the coast while eruptions and weather and sea conditions were being monitored for tsunami risks.

A tsunami that followed an eruption of Anak Krakatoa hit communities along the Sunda Strait on Saturday night, killing more than 420 people and displacing thousands. The eruption is believed to have set off a landslide on the volcano's slopes, displacing the water that then slammed into Java and Sumatra islands.

Indonesia's Meteorology, Geophysics and Climatology Agency asked people late Tuesday to stay at least 500 meters (1,640 feet) from the Sunda Strait coastline.

Agency's head Dwikorita Karnawati said government agencies were monitoring Anak Krakatoa's eruptions and that high waves and heavy rain were possible Wednesday.

"All these conditions could potentially cause landslides at the cliffs of the crater into the sea, and we fear that that could trigger a tsunami," she said at a news conference. She asked that communities remain vigilant but not panic.

The tsunami Saturday night struck without warning, taking people by surprise even in a country familiar with seismic disaster. No big earthquake shook the ground beforehand, and it hit at nighttime on a holiday weekend while people were enjoying concerts and other beach and resort activities.

People in Sumur village, which has been slow to re-



Source: AP Graphic: Tribune News Service

ceive aid due to roads being cut off, remained stunned by how quickly the tsunami hit. The beach, located just a few kilometers from the tourist island of Umang near Java's western tip, is popular for snorkeling and other water activities. The tsunami decimated the area, ripping houses from their foundations and bulldozing concrete buildings.

Scientists have said the tsunami's waves were recorded in several places at about 1 meter (3.3 feet) high, but residents of Sumur insisted they towered more than 3 meters (10 feet) there. They said a soaring white wall of water roared toward them at high speeds, ripping trees out of the ground by their roots.

"There was no sign of a tsunami when we were at the beach. The sea didn't recede," said Tati Hayati, a housewife, who was enjoying a pleasant evening with 10 other people when the disaster hit. "It was calm and bright with the full moon."

When she spotted high,

fast-moving waves launching toward the shore, she ran to her car and managed to get inside. But she couldn't outrun it. She said the car was struck by three waves, breaking out the back window and filling the vehicle with gushing water.

"We were locked inside. The car was swaying in the waves and we thought we would all die," Hayati said. "We almost could not breathe and I almost gave up when I groped the key in the water and managed to open the door, and the water began to recede. We got out of the car and ran to safety."

More than 16,000 people were displaced from their homes and heavy equipment was urgently needed in the Sumur subdistrict near Ujung Kulon National Park to help get aid flowing and reach people who may be injured or trapped, said Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman for Indonesia's Disaster Mitigation Agency.

The death toll was 429, with more than 1,400 people injured and at least 128 missing, he said.

Anak Krakatau, or Child of Krakatoa, formed in the early 20th century near the site of the cataclysmic 1883 eruption of Krakatoa, which killed more than 30,000 people and hurled so much ash that it turned day to night in the area and reduced global temperatures.

Anak Krakatau has been erupting since June and did so again 24 minutes before the tsunami, according to the geophysics agency.

eight hours against security

World

Israeli attack near Syrian capital wounds 3 soldiers

BEIRUT (AP)—Israeli warplanes flying over Lebanon fired missiles toward areas near the Syrian capital of Damascus late Tuesday, hitting an arms depot and wounding three soldiers, Syrian state media reported, saying that most of the missiles were shot down by air defense units.

The TV, quoting an unnamed military official, identified the warplanes as Israeli. Lebanon's the staterun National News Agency earlier reported that Israeli warplanes were flying at low altitude over parts of southern Lebanon.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a war monitor, said Israeli airstrikes targeted three positions south of Damascus that are arms depots for Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group and Iranian forces.

The reported attack near Damascus is the first since U.S. President Donald Trump announced last week

that the U.S. will withdraw all of its 2,000 forces in Syria, a move that will leave control of the oil-rich eastern third of Syria up for grabs.

Following Trump's announcement, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that Israel would "continue to act against Iran's attempts to entrench itself militarily in Syria, and to the extent necessary, we will even expand our actions there."

Nearly an hour after the attacks began, Damascus residents could still hear the air defense units firing toward targets in the air.

"The aggression is still ongoing," said a presenter on state TV, which interrupted its programs to air patriotic songs.

Later the TV quoted an unnamed military official as saying that Syrian air defenses "shot down most of the missiles before reaching their targets and the aggression damaged an arms depot and wounded three

soldiers." It added that the Israeli warplanes fired the missiles from Lebanese airspace.

Israel's military spokesman's unit did not confirm the raids, but said in a statement that "an aerial defense system was activated against an anti-aircraft missile launched from Syria." No damage or injuries were reported by the Israeli military.

Israel is widely believed to have been behind a series of airstrikes in the past that mainly targeted Iranian and Hezbollah forces fighting alongside the government in Syria. Tuesday's attack is the first since a missile assault on the southern outskirts of Damascus on Nov. 29.

Russia announced it had delivered the S-300 air defense system to Syria in October. That followed the Sept. 17 downing of a Russian reconnaissance plane by Syrian forces responding to an Israeli airstrike, a friendly fire incident that stoked regional tensions.

Wave of sexual abuse allegations shakes Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—For months, Claudia Guebel could only tell family and friends about a traumatizing encounter with a colleague in Argentina's Senate.

At the beginning of this year, she said, Pedro Fiorda, a senator's chief of staff, grabbed her violently by the arms like a "hunter who catches prey." The, she felt his tongue inside her mouth. The terror that seized her made those minutes seem eternal, she said.

"I didn't know how to react, I was paralyzed," said Guebel, a congressional aide who previously worked for the same senator.

In December, she was finally moved to file a formal complaint with judicial authorities after actress Thelma Fardin publicly accused actor Juan Darthes of raping her in 2009 when she was 16 and he was 45. Writers, politicians and journalists expressed support for Fardin on social media.

"With Thelma's statements, everything was awakened in me," said Guebel, 52.

Fiorda could not be reached for comment by The Associated Press, and Darthes says he is innocent.

But Guebel is now part of

a wave of women who have come forward in the South American country with sexual misconduct accusations in what has inevitably been compared to the #MeToo movement in the United States, where the worlds of media, business, entertainment and politics have been roiled by allegations against powerful men.

Women say they are also taking a cue from "Ni Una Menos," an Argentine grassroots movement that emerged in 2015 and spread globally. The movement has drawn thousands into massive demonstrations against feminicide and violence against women in Argentina, where a bill attempting to legalize abortion was defeated in August.

"For a while in Argentina we have been witnessing a paradigm shift ... where the voices of women are beginning to be heard, understood and, most importantly, accompanied by others," said Fabiana Tunez, executive director of the National Institute for Women in Argentina, who said the accusations by Fardin lent the movement more visibility.

On Dec. 11, the actress announced she had filed a criminal complaint in Nicaragua,

where she says she was raped by Darthes in a hotel during a promotional tour for "Ugly Duckling," a children's television series. Darthes, who has since moved to his native Brazil, has denied the allegation. Three other women also have accused him of harassment or abuse.

"We are all very shocked," said Sabrina Cartabia, Fardin's lawyer. "It is opening up the possibility of talking about something very painful."

In Argentina there is no national registry of victims of sexual abuse. But a survey found that 45 percent of the 2,750 students polled at public and private universities in Buenos Aires reported suffering physical or psychological abuse and 9 percent had suffered sexual abuse. The survey was published in a 2016 report by UNICEF Argentina.

Another poll conducted by the Argentine Management Society of Actors found that 66 percent of actresses said they had suffered some type of harassment or abuse while exercising their profession.

The wave of women speaking out is now threatening an entrenched machismo culture in a country where women are often catcalled, hissed at and harassed on the street.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Thailand legislature legalizes medical marijuana and kratom

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's legislature on Tuesday agreed to amend the country's drug law to allow the licensed medical use of marijuana, as well as kratom, a locally grown plant traditionally used as a stimulant and painkiller. Thailand is the first country in Southeast Asia to take such action, which is also under consideration in neighboring Malaysia. New Zealand's government earlier this month enacted a law liberalizing the medical use of marijuana, which had previously been tightly restricted. The Thai legislation passed its final reading at the National Legislative Assembly by a vote of 166-0 with

13 abstentions. The changes, which become law when published in the Royal Gazette, legalize the production, import, export, possession and use of marijuana and kratom products for medical purposes.= Purveyors, producers and researchers will need licenses to handle the drugs, while end-users will need prescriptions.

Death toll from attack in Afghan capital climbs to 40

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The death toll from an attack in the Afghan capital has climbed to 40, the Health Ministry said Tuesday, as police and rescue workers combed through the smoldering public welfare building where the gunmen held out for

forces. A suicide bomber detonated his explosives-laden vehicle outside the building Monday before at least three gunmen stormed in, rampaging through the office complex hunting for victims. Some employees managed to barricade themselves inside offices while police quickly evacuated more than 350 people. Health Ministry spokesman Wahid Majro says 40 people were killed and 29 were wounded. An earlier, higher toll provided by the ministry included the attackers. No one immediately claimed the attack, but the Taliban and a local Islamic State affiliate have carried out a relentless wave of assaults on government targets in recent years.

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Focus



In this Nov. 16, 2018, photo, immigrants who entered the United States illegally wait to board a plane for a deportation flight to El Salvador by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Houston. An obscure division of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement operates hundreds of flights each year to remove immigrants.

Deported immigrants get their last flight on 'ICE Air'

By NOMAAN MERCHANT and ANGELIKI KASTANIS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

OUSTON (AP)—
Shackled at their ankles and wrists and their shoelaces removed, a long line of men and women waited on the tarmac as a team of officers patted them down and checked inside their mouths for anything hidden.

Then one by one, they climbed a mobile staircase and onto a charter plane the size of a commercial aircraft.

This was a deportation flight run by ICE Air. The chains would be removed and the shoelaces returned when the plane landed in El Salvador.

An obscure division of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement operates hundreds of flights each year to remove immigrants. Deportation flights are big business: The U.S. government has spent approximately \$1 billion on them in the last decade, and the Trump administration

is seeking to raise ICE's budget for charter flights by 30 percent.

ICE Air Operations transports detained immigrants between American cities and, for those with final removal orders, back to their home countries. About 100,000 people a year are deported on such flights.

While Mexican immigrants are generally flown to southern U.S. cities and then driven to the border so they can cross over, Central Americans have to be transported by air. And the large numbers of Mexicans who used to cross the border have largely been replaced by migrants from three impoverished Central American countries: El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

According to flight-tracking data, deportation flights to Guatemala and Honduras have sharply increased this year. And ICE's budget request for charter flights increased 30 percent last year compared to the year before.

The agency estimated last year that it spends about \$7,785 per hour on the flights

ICE shifted to chartering private planes about a decade ago after previously using a government service with the U.S. Marshals. The agency says moving to private flights saves about \$25 million a year and gave it more flexibility. Charter flights also avoid putting large numbers of deported immigrants on commercial planes, which requires buying tickets for deportation officers accompanying them, or holding them in the U.S. for longer than necessary and tying up space in detention centers.

"I don't want to elongate anybody's detention with us," said Pat Contreras, director of enforcement and removal for ICE's Houston field office. "If a judge says you need to be removed, we should be expeditiously working to execute that order so that person does not spend any longer in detention than necessary."

But migrant advocacy groups say ICE Air is an example of how tougher immigration enforcement — from detention to tracking to removal — enriches private companies.

"The way you would save money on ICE Air is by deporting fewer people, not by privatizing the industry," said Bob Libal, director of Grassroots Leadership, which opposes immigration detention.

"ICE is a largely privatized agency," Libal said. "In many ways,

it's been captured by the industries that profit from deportation and detention."

The Associated Press observed a deportation flight being loaded last month at a private terminal of Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston.

The Boeing 737 had no markings suggesting it was a deportation flight. Instead, it had the insignia of Swift Air, a private company that also flies charters for political campaigns and professional sports teams, including the NHL's Boston Bruins and Chicago Blackhawks. In this case, Swift Air had been hired by Classic Air Charters, a Huntington, New York-based company that won ICE's deportation flights contract last year.

Classic Air has been paid \$51 million this year by ICE, according to federal spending records. The previous contractor, CSI Aviation of New Mexico, was paid \$906 million by ICE's removals division since 2010, when ICE privatized its flights.

When the plane landed in Houston, about 30 Salvadoran immigrants were already on board, flown in from Alexandria, Louisiana, an ICE Air hub. They peered out the windows as

the plane sat on the tarmac.

Two buses arrived, carrying 45 men and five women. Their few belongings were in red mesh bags that workers sorted on the tarmac.

Officers checked each detainee before letting them board, a process that took about 20 minutes.

According to the agency, 29 of the 50 people who boarded the plane in Houston had been arrested on criminal charges, including four who were wanted in El Salvador for attempted murder or homicide, the agency said.

The remaining 21 were considered non-criminal, meaning they were being deported for immigration violations. Twenty of the 50 had been deported before.

ICE would not let AP reporters view the inside of the plane, but officials said the flights are orderly and quiet. A meal is served, and a doctor is on board. But all detainees — even those considered non-criminal — remain shackled until the plane lands.

"We try and be as humane as we can with everything that we do," Contreras said. "We try to make them safe. We want to make sure that not one individual does anything wrong."

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Environment

By JENNY STALETOVICH MIAMI HERALD

LONG KEY, Fla.—One crisp, sunny afternoon this month, grad student Sarah Steele Cabrera headed down a sandy path at Long Key State Park carrying two nylon bug containers.

Cabrera had scouted out the park, a former fishing camp fashioned into an early version of glamping by railroad tycoon Henry Flagler and now a tangle of gumbo limbo, poisonwood and prickly nickerbean, and found a perfect spot to release the contents of the boxes: 60 newly hatched Miami blue butterflies, among the rarest insects in North America, and maybe the world.

Cabrera's butterflies, bred at a University of Florida lab in Gainesville and shipped overnight by FedEx two days earlier, are part of the latest effort in a yearslong rescue mission that have made the butterfly one of the more high-profile endangered bugs. It even has its own limited-edition beer.

Only decades ago, collectors considered the butterflies a trash specimen because they were so plentiful. Peterson's 1951 Field Guide described them as common. But today just two wild colonies can be found on remote islands west of Key West, surrounded by busy shipping lanes potentially carrying exotic enemies and in the middle of hurricane alley. So Cabrera's mission is not without urgency.

"Unfortunately by the time we're doing this, they're in critical care," said attorney Dennis Olle, a director of the North American Butterfly Association and former president of the Miami Blue chapter. "We're dealing with stuff that could wink out very quickly."

The rescue would amount to a major breakthrough for a state besieged by invasive species, battered by climate change and in a seemingly losing race to save its natural beauty. So far, years of trying have failed to reproduce a stable population, but researchers are hoping to repeat the success they've had with another nearly extinct butterfly, the Schaus' swallowtail.

A rescue would also be welcome news on a planet undergoing an alarming decline in insects in recent years, from the rainforests of Puerto Rico to Germany's prehistoric forests.

"It's not nuclear war. It's not global warming. The apocalypse of all things is going to be the collapse of the insect population," Olle said. "It will fundamentally change the way we live on earth and we've all taken it for granted.

In the United States, Florida



Miami Blue Butterflies mate right after being released. The butterfly, which once fluttered along beaches from the Keys to the Space Coast and St. Peterbrug, have been at deaths door so many times it's hard to keep track. Researchers released about 60 Miami Blues at Long Key State Park on December 7, 2018, an they're hoping these newly released butterflies being to establish themselves at this site.

The Miami blue was fluttering toward extinction. Then the scientists showed up

ranks high for its bounty of butterflies. But increasingly, the state has also climbed the list for the number of imperiled butterflies. In the last three years, two were added to the endangered species list while a third, the frosted elfin, is now being considered.

The Miami blue began disappearing during the 1980s and '90s, as coastal construction in South Florida boomed and condos began replacing the dunes and coastal berms they inhabited. By the early '90s, they could only be found on Key Biscayne, although still in good numbers.

"They would be flying all over the place," said botanist Roger Hammer who helped revive the Atala butterfly after taking several from its last known colony and breeding them on coontie he planted in his yard. When he ran out of space, he smuggled some into Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden, where they quickly began eating the collection, evidence that rare butterfly populations can be saved.

When Hurricane Andrew hit in 1992, the Miami blues vanished entirely. They were thought to be extinct for seven years until a butterfly enthusiast from Pennsylvania discovered about 50 at Bahia Honda State Park and emailed pictures to NABA's president,

who flew down the next day and confirmed the colony.

For the next three years, NABA fought to get the butterfly protected. Olle lobbied the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which ultimately refused. So NABA drafted its own rescue plan, raised money and took its case to Florida wildlife managers, who listed them in 2002. It would take the feds another 10 years to recognize their perilous state.

To ensure against extinction, a breeding effort was started at UF's McGuire Center for Lepidoptera, which had already begun breeding the Schaus' swallowtail. UF researcher Jaret Daniels, Cabrera's boss and mentor who now runs the breeding lab, helped collect 100 eggs from Bahia Honda to create the "assur-

ance population." But in 2010, the lab population crashed at the same time the Bahia Honda colony vanished. Luckily, researchers had by then found one of the populations off Key West that provided eggs for a new lab nursery.

Since 2016, when the latest effort started, Daniels has bred 17 generations, amounting to thousands of offspring that need to be fed and tended to in the cooler Gainesville climate. A crew of staff and grad students keeps a nursery stocked with nickerbean and fragrant blackbead, the butterflies' two host plants, and tends to the pupa and caterpillars in individual cups that line the lab.

"These guys are horribly cannibalistic," Daniels said. "Keeping them away from their brethren is a good thing.

Taylor Hunt, Biological Technician for Miami Blue Butterfly Project, University of Florida, holds the containers with 60 Miami Blue Butterflies to be released on December 7, 2018, in Long Key State Park, Fla.

Once they've had flesh, they never go back."

In addition to the busy nursery, the research team is also trying to figure out exactly what's keeping the Miami blue from bouncing back. Like other butterflies, scientists generally know what's harming them — pesticides, loss of habitat, invasive species like green iguanas and changing climate — but don't know specifics about their decline.

Insects tend to be heavily reliant on their surroundings, which is why they also tend to be such a good measure of a habitat health. Butterflies can be a particularly good yardstick because they have such small ranges and many depend on specific plants to survive. The Miami blue inhabits a tiny range of just 45 to 55 yards and needs just two plants.

They also play a critical role in keeping certain habitats in balance, especially the disappearing ones unique to South Florida, by pollinating native plants and serving as the first course in the food chain.

"Everything loves to eat them," Cabrera said, including song birds, wasps and lizards. "Wasps will find caterpillars to take back to nests and feed their babies."

That makes pinning down what's harming them like finding a needle in a haystack. The

UF team, however, thinks they may be closing in. Like other butterflies, Miami blues have a "mutualistic" relationship with ants. As caterpillars and pupa, the blues produce a sticky sugar that ants, particularly Florida carpenter ants, like to eat. So much so, that the brawny ants will defend the vulnerable caterpillars from other insects.

"If they have a caterpillar they're tending, they will not leave that caterpillar," Cabrera said. "If they find another insect, they'll pick it up and throw it off the plant."

Preliminary research in Daniels' lab has found that with no ants around, the caterpillars were gobbled up in significant numbers. But with ants on patrol, there were no attacks. That may mean researchers will need to look into what's going on with ants and whether there's a problem with invasive ants.

"I think one of the side stories is ants," Olle said. "We got ants. The problem is we got ants from everywhere."

As part of the research, Daniels is also trying to figure out how many butterflies to release and when. Beginning in July, Cabrera began putting out pupa. In each case, butterflies emerged, mated and laid eggs. Female butterflies lay up to 100 eggs, one at a time, so tracking them can be challenging. But the eggs hatched, caterpillars rolled into their cocoons and a second generation of butterflies appeared. Yet they never managed to reproduce a third generation. Researchers aren't sure if they didn't release enough or something else interfered.

By releasing adults, Cabrera hopes the butterflies have a better chance of survival and bring the ephemeral blue, whose entire life lasts only a month, back from the brink.

At the end of the trail, just inside a stand of mangroves overlooking the Atlantic, Cabrera, biologist Taylor Hunt and a trio of volunteers find a scrubby stand of nickerbean and blackbead covered with pink pompom flowers. Kim Gabel, a UF horticulturist who retired last year after helping defeat a gory outbreak of invasive New World screwworm killing endangered Key deer, got to open the first box.

"There you go," she said after the last butterfly departed.

The release takes just a few minutes, and given the massive effort to produce them, seems slightly anticlimactic.

"What's the man hours for this butterfly?" muses biologist Hunt, who will take over releasing butterflies and monitoring the two colonies about 73 miles away. "What's the man hours."

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2018 19 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Life & Style

Renaissance master: Tintoretto's 500th spans 2 continents

VENICE, Italy (AP)—A Venetian cloth dyer's son, Tintoretto spent his entire career in Venice, becoming widely considered the last great painter of the Renaissance.

The lagoon city's churches and palazzi essentially serve as a permanent retrospective of this native son's formidable talents in using dramatic color, bold brushstrokes and daringly innovative perspective on often-enormous canvasses.

Still, curators here have encountered challenges when mounting tributes this year to mark the 500th anniversary of his birth.

Some of Tintoretto's paintings couldn't be included in the main exhibition, hosted at the landmark Palazzo Ducale (Doges' Palace), because they couldn't fit through its 16thcentury stone doorways.

And several Venetian churches, where the painter did much of his best work, balked at loaning their masterpieces. Not surprisingly, they are eager for visitors making the Tintoretto pilgrimage to visit their venues and not just the stellar show, which, since opening in September, has drawn more than 100,000 visitors.

After it closes here on Jan. 6, the exhibition travels to the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. for a fourmonth run starting March 10. That will be the first-ever Tintoretto retrospective outside of Europe.

When Venice last hosted a Tintoretto retrospective, in 1937, church paintings were cut out of their frames, rolled up and carted off to the exhibition. That method would be met with horror by today's art world, especially since nearly a score of Tintoretto paintings were recently restored, thanks to the Save Venice organization.

"The churches generally felt, and we understood, it didn't make sense to move his masterpieces across the city,' said Robert Echols, a Bostonbased art historian who is one of the curators. Some of those church works will go to the U.S. exhibition, however.

Some of Tintoretto's greatest works can never travel, of course, and are being celebrated here.

In the Chapter House in the



In this Dec. 3, 2018 photo, a visitor to an exhibition of Tintoretto works looks at his "Presentation of Jesus in the Temple" at the Ducal Palace in Venice.

Scuola di San Rocco, admirers can lay on their backs to see Tintoretto's work, which has been likened to the monumental achievement of Michelangelo in the Vatican's Sistine Chapel. Thanks to new lighting and strategically placed mirrors, the Chapter

House last month had its own renaissance of sorts. Now visitors can see details in what before had seemed like a gloomy, cavernous room.

Echols and co-curator Frederick Ilchman, chair of European art at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, devoted much of their art historian careers to weeding out paintings that had been dubiously attributed to Tintoretto, whittling down what had been a list of 468 works to just over 300 paintings of his authorship.

"Tintoretto, to some extent, is a painter who was a victim of his own success," Echols said.

Tintoretto, a pseudonym of Jacopo Robusti, obtained so many commissions, particularly in his later years, that he farmed out some work, notably to his son, Domenico. While his genius was acknowledged in his own day, some works done by imitators or his workshop had been incorrectly attributed to Tintoretto in successive centuries.

Tintoretto cleverly maneuvered to snag commissions from nobles and churches during the heady years of the sea-going Most Serene Republic of Venice.

"The Shakespeare play is not the "Merchant of Florence," it's "The Merchant of Venice," Ilchman noted. recounting how Tintoretto sometimes offered discounts to ensure commissions didn't go to his rivals, who included Titian and Veronese. Another great Venetian artist, Tiepolo, worked later, also with paintings in the Grande Scuola di San Rocco.

Queen Elizabeth II riffs on wisdom, family's busy year

SANDRINGHAM, England (AP)—Queen Elizabeth II wove personal reflections into the latest edition of her annual Christmas message, saying she hoped her long life brought a measure of wisdom and noting her grandchildren's contributions to Britain's royal family.

The 92-year-old queen, the world's longest-reigning living monarch, also included the customary tribute to military personnel and wishes for world peace in the message, which was pre-recorded at Buckingham Palace and televised Tuesday.

"Some cultures believe a long life brings wisdom," Elizabeth said in the recording. "I'd like to think so. Perhaps part of that wisdom is to recognize some of life's baffling paradoxes, such as the way human beings have a huge propensity for good and yet a capacity for evil."

On a lighter note, the queen listed the House of Windsor's 2018 milestones with the same unabashed pride of someone writing their yearly Christmas letter for friends and farflung relatives.

"It's been a busy year for my family, with two weddings and two babies, and another child expected soon. It helps



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II leaves after attending the Christmas day service at St Mary Magdalene Church in Sandringham in Norfolk, England, Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2018.

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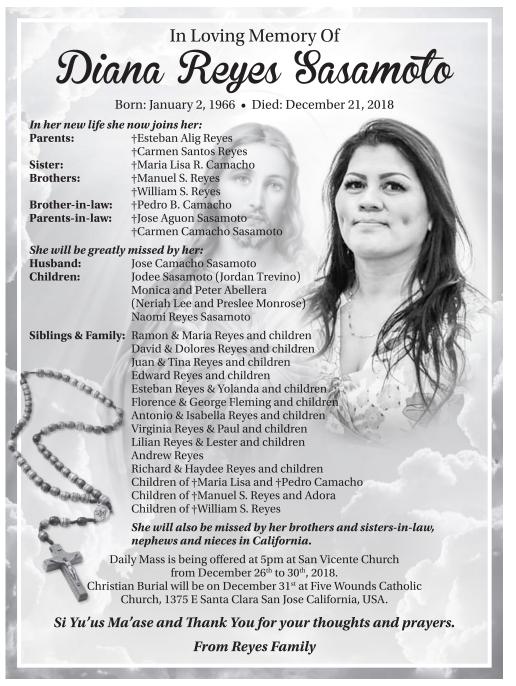
The annual message was broadcast to many of the 53 Commonwealth countries. Elizabeth recalled that her father, King George VI, welcomed eight former British colonies at the first meeting of Commonwealth leaders in 1948.

"Even with the most deeply held differences, treating the other person with respect and as a fellow human being is

always a good first step towards greater understanding," she said.

The queen mentioned her "We have had other cel- father, from whom she inherited the throne when he died in 1952, again while expressing gratitude for soldiers and sailors past and present. During World War I, two decades before his own unexpected ascension to the throne, he served with the Royal Navy and saw friends killed in battle, Elizabeth said.

"At Christmas, we become keenly aware of loved ones who have died, whatever the circumstances. But, of course, we would not grieve if we did not love.



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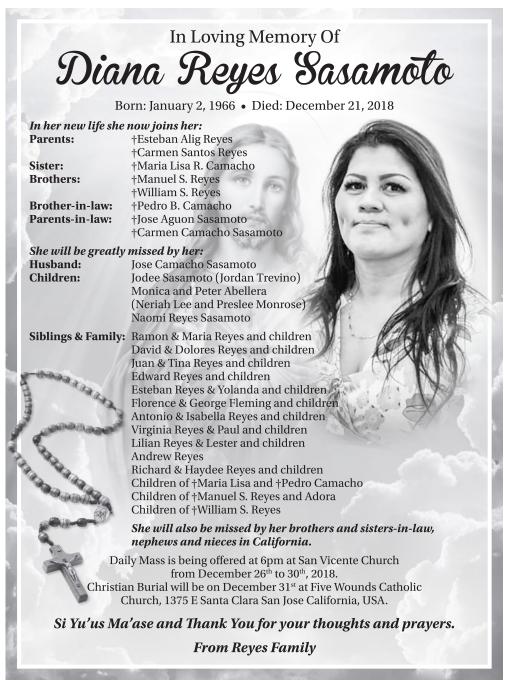
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Painting stolen in WWII is heading from US to Ukraine

A painting that was stolen during World War II and later spent decades in a Connecticut home will be returned to an art museum in Ukraine, according to U.S. and Ukrainian officials.

The FBI seized the painting after a retired couple in Ridgefield transported it to Washington, D.C., to be auctioned last year. The couple, David and Gabby Tracy, had long cherished the painting but figured it was a copy, not the signed original.

Standing nearly 8 feet tall (2.4 meters), the painting depicts the 16th century Russian czar Ivan the Terrible looking crestfallen as he flees the Kremlin on horseback.

It had been left behind in a Ridgefield home that David Tracy bought in 1987. The previous couple in the home said the painting was already there when they purchased the house from a Swiss man in 1962.

When Tracy and his wife moved to a different house in the area, they paid \$37,000 to add a sunroom big enough to display the painting.

"This painting was a beautiful painting, and we treasured it," Gabby Tracy, 84, told The Associated Press on Saturday. "You couldn't help but admire the fine painting, what detail was in Ivan's face."

But as they made plans to



This undated photo provided by the U.S. Attorney's Office in Washington shows a painting of Ivan the Terrible that was exhibited in art museum in Ukraine.

move to a condominium in Maine last year, they realized the painting wouldn't fit. They hired an auctioning company near Washington to sell the work, which was appraised at about \$5,000.

After the auction house added the painting to its catalog, though, an employee received an urgent email from an art museum in Ukraine.

"Attention! Painting 'Ivan the Terrible' was in the collection of the Dnepropetrovsk Art Museum until 1941 and was stolen during the Second World War," the email said, according to court documents.

"Please stop selling this painting at auction!!!"

The museum identified the painting as a 1911 work by Mikhail Panin, titled "Secret Departure of Ivan the Terrible Before the Oprichina." It was a permanent exhibit at the Ukrainian museum until 1941 but disappeared during Nazi occupation of the city.

FBI officials took custody of the painting and later traced it to the Swiss man who sold the Ridgefield home in 1962. Officials didn't release his name but said he moved to the U.S. in 1946 after serving in the Swiss Army. He died in 1986. Gabby Tracy said it's unknown how he obtained the painting.

After learning it had been stolen, the Tracy couple agreed the painting should be returned to Ukraine. The story particularly moved Gabby, who was born in Slovakia and survived the Holocaust. Her father, Samuel Weiss, died in a concentration camp.

"There was never a question that it was going back. It's just sad that we had to go through this experience," Gabby said. "It's ironic that I should have been so worried about keeping this painting safe."

Federal officials filed paperwork Thursday formally passing the painting from the FBI to the U.S. District Attorney's Office in Washington, which is turning it over to Ukraine's embassy.

"The looting of cultural heritage during World War II was tragic, and we are happy to be able to assist in the efforts to return such items to their rightful owners," U.S. Attorney Jessie Liu said in a statement Friday.

Symphonic touches give new spin to old Carpenters records

WESTLAKE VILLAGE, our best records" regard-Calif. (AP)—Karen Carpenter has now been gone longer than she was alive.

Yet her best work may have just been released, at least according to her brother, arranger and performing partner, Richard, who has made it his mission to keep her singing voice resonant and relevant since her death 35 years ago.

In the new collection, "Carpenters with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra," Richard Carpenter gave new string arrangements to many of the duo's classic recordings from the late 1960s through the early 1980s, including "Close to You" and "Superstar," and pushed his sister's unmistakable voice even more to the fore than it already was.

"I think it's the best album we've ever made," Carpenter, 72, told The Associated Press in an interview at his Southern California home this week.

Longtime fans are enthused by the collection, which includes the holiday touch of 'Merry Christmas Darling," the December staple that Carpenter says was "one of existing arrangement."

less of season.

The album debuted at No. 52 on the Billboard charts in the U.S. after its Dec. 7 release by A&M/UMe and shot straight to the Top 10 in the United Kingdom and Japan, both Carpenters' strongholds from the start. A vinyl release will follow in February.

Carpenter wasn't immediately gung-ho when Universal Music asked if he wanted to create an album for the "Royal Philharmonic" series, whose previous editions have included Elvis Presley and Aretha Franklin.

But as he considered it, he realized he could make small changes to the duo's already largely orchestral recordings that would make a big difference.

"It gave me a chance to change a couple of arrangements a certain way that I pretty much wanted to do for many a year," he said. "They're just either augmentations to already existing parts—just more players playing the parts—or different little things that I heard to an

'Aquaman' outswims 'Poppins,'

NEW YORK (AP)—In a flood of new releases, "Aquaman" easily swam past "Mary Poppins Returns" and "Bumblebee" to lead the busy pre-Christmas weekend with an estimated \$67.4 million over the weekend, according to

studio estimates Sunday. Without a "Star Wars" film on the December schedule for the first time in four years, a crowded slate of films sought to capitalize on the lucrative holiday period in theaters.

The DC Comics superhero film "Aquaman," which cost Warner Bros. \$200 million to make, arrived already a juggernaut overseas, where it has grossed more than \$400 million in three weeks of release. Including advance previews, the Jason Momoa-led "Aquaman" reeled in \$72.1 million in U.S. and Canada theaters, bringing its global total to \$482.8 million.

"Aquaman," directed by James Wan, has proven to be a stabilizing "Justice League" spinoff for Warner Bros. following bumpier DC releases outside of "Wonder Woman."

The film garnered an A-minus Cinemascore from audiences.

For the studios, the weekend was as much about setting themselves up for Christmas to New Year's, when theaters

- "Aquaman," \$67.4 million (\$91.3 million international). "Mary Poppins Returns," \$22.2
- "Bumblebee," \$21 million (\$31.1
- million international) "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-
- Verse," \$16.7 million (\$38 million international) "The Mule," \$9.3 million.
- "The Grinch," \$8.2 million (\$23.7
- million international). "Second Act," \$6.5 million.
- "Welcome to Marwen," \$2.4

\$4.6 million (\$9.3 million interna-

million. 10. "Mary Queen of Scots," \$2.2

are routinely packed through the week. With Christmas falling on a Tuesday, studio executives said the weekend was an unpredictable and distraction-filled one, competing with some of the busiest shopping days of the year.

Bumblebee' with \$67.4M debut

"We really kick off starting Tuesday," said Warner Bros. distribution chief Jeff Goldstein, who said the "Aquaman" performance came in just above the studio's \$65

> million forecast. "With kids not really returning to school until January 7, this aligns the stars for us in a really positive way."

Returns were more modest for Disney's "Mary Poppins" sequel and Paramount's "Transformers" spinoff, though each had reason to expect strong business through the holidays.

"Mary Poppins Returns," starring Emily Blunt and directed by Rob Marshall, debuted with \$22.2 million over the weekend and \$31 million since opening Wednesday. That was on the low side of expectations for the

musical, which cost \$130 million to make.

"May Poppins Returns," which co-stars Lin-Manuel Miranda, will depend heavily on legs through the holiday season. On its side are good if not spectacular reviews (77

percent fresh on Rotten Tomatoes), an A-minus CinemaScore from moviegoers and four Golden Globe nominations.

"It's a great weekend to start yourself off on a launch pad into the holiday period," said Cathleen Taff, head of distribution for Disney. "We're looking forward to great word of mouth building over the next few weeks. And we're looking forward to a long run."

"Poppins" still narrowly edged "Bumblebee," which opened with \$21 million. That, too, is a soft beginning for a film that cost about \$135 million to make after tax credits. It's also far off the pace of the Transformers" films, the last of which ("Transformers: The Last Knight") debuted with \$44.7 million in summer 2017.

"Bumblebee," "Transformers" prequel directed by Travis Knight and starring Hailee Steinfeld, has something the Michael Bay films never had: good reviews. "Bumblebee" was the weekend's most acclaimed new wide release with a 94 percent fresh rating on Rotten Tomatoes. Audiences also gave it an A-minus CinemaScore.

Harnessed horse unearthed in ancient stable near Pompeii



An archaeologist inspects the remains of a horse skeleton in the Pompeii archaeological site, Italy, Sunday, Dec. 23, 2018.

ROME (AP)—Archaeologists have unearthed the petrified remains of a harnessed horse and saddle in the stable of an ancient villa in a Pompeii suburb.

archaeological Pompeii park head Massimo Osanna told Italian news agency ANSA that the villa belonged to a high-ranking military officer, perhaps a general, during ancient Roman times.

Osanna was quoted on Sunday as saying the remains of two or three other horses were

also discovered.

The villa's terraces had views of the Bay of Naples and Capri island. The area was previously excavated, during the early 1900s, but later re-buried.

The volcanic eruption of Mount Vesuvius destroyed flourishing Pompeii, near present-day Naples, in 79 A.D.

Osanna says suffocating volcanic ash or boiling vapors killed the horses. He hopes the villa eventually will be open for public visits.

Meghan Trainor weds actor Daryl Sabara on her 25th birthday

Man accused of plotting to kidnap Letterman's son is freed

GREAT FALLS, Mont. (AP)—A man once accused of plotting to kidnap retired talk show host David Letterman's son and nanny has been released from a Montana prison for a second time after serving additional years for violating parole.

Kelly Allen Frank was released in mid-November and is under the supervision of parole officials, the Great Falls Tribune reported Saturday.

Frank was a painter on Letterman's Montana ranch when he was arrested in 2005 on charges of solicitation to kidnap. Investigators said he told an acquaintance of a plan to abduct Letterman's son, Harry Joseph, then 16 months old, and the nanny for a \$5 million ransom.

In a deal with prosecutors, Frank pleaded guilty

to theft for overcharging Letterman for painting. He also pleaded guilty to obstruction for lying to investigators and to an unrelated poaching charge. Prosecutors dropped the kidnaprelated charge.

Frank was sentenced to 10 years in prison but escaped in 2007. He was recaptured and given an additional 10-year sentence.

He was released in 2014 but re-arrested in 2015 for violating the terms of his parole.

The conditions of his latest parole include spending at least six months in semi-restricted housing and wearing a GPS monitor for at least six months.

Letterman retired from "The Late Show" on CBS in 2015. He returned to TV this year with "My Next Guest Needs No Introduction with David Letterman' on Netflix.

NEW YORK (AP) Meghan Trainor has wed actor Daryl Sabara in nuptial exchanged at the couple's Los Angeles home.

A publicist for the Grammy-winning singer on Sunday confirmed the two married Saturday. People magazine first reported the wedding. It says about 100 guests attended the private backyard ceremony. It was also Trainor's 25th



In an April 17, 2018 file photo, Meghan Trainor, right, and Daryl Sabara arrive at the world premiere of "I Feel Pretty" at the Westwood Village Theater in Los Angeles.

The "All About That Bass" singer and the 26-year-old "Spy Kids" actor became engaged last year.

Trainor's third album is due out in 2019.

Ex-Disney actor charged with 6 counts in underage sex case

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)— Former Disney Channel actor Stoney Westmoreland has been charged with six felony counts after authorities said he tried to have sex with a 13-year-old boy.

Westmoreland, 48, was on the dating app Grindr when he found a profile that appeared to be an underage boy but was actually operated by a police detective in Salt Lake City, near the location where the show "Andi Mack" is filmed,

prosecutors said.

A message left with Westmoreland's agent, Mitchell Stubbs, on Monday was not immediately returned. No attorney was listed for Westmoreland in court records.

The actor was arrested Dec. 13 after he took a car from a ride-hailing app to meet the boy so they could go back to his hotel room, authorities said. He had previously sent over explicit photos and asked for nude photos in return, authorities said.

Westmoreland acknowledged to police that he had sent nude photos, and knew the person he was speaking with said he was 13 years old, charging documents state.

Westmoreland was charged Friday with enticing a minor, attempted exploitation of a minor and four counts of dealing in material harmful to a minor by an adult.

A \$100,000 warrant was issued for Westmoreland, who

lives in Los Angeles and had previously bailed out of the Salt Lake County jail. A public safety assessment filed with the court found he was a low risk to public safety. No new court date was immediately set.

Westmoreland was dropped from his role as the grandfather of the teenage title character in the Disney show after his arrest.

Westmoreland's other acting credits include TV's "Scandal" and "Breaking Bad."

Roseanne Barr to address Israeli parliament in January

JERUSALEM (AP)—Former television star Roseanne Barr says she will be traveling to Israel in January and has been invited to address the country's par-

Barr announced her visit to Israel on Monday, saying her aim is to "further my own knowledge of Jewish and Israeli history" and speak out "against the insidious and anti-Semitic BDS movement." BDS refers to a Palestinianled movement calling for boycott, divestment and sanctions of Israel.

ABC canceled its reboot of "Roseanne" in May after Barr tweeted racist remarks about former Obama administration adviser Valerie Jarrett.

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, whose organization sponsored Barr's trip, says that "bringing an incredibly proud Jewish woman like Rosanne to Israel will be a great boost to its citizens."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Heidi Klum gets engaged to musician **Tom Kaulitz**



Klum

musician boyfriend. The 45-year-old German model announced her engagement to Tokio Hotel guitarist Tom Kaulitz in an Instagram post on Monday. She has been dating the 29-year-old Kaulitz

for nearly a year. The post featured a black-and-white photo of the couple, with Klum showing her diamond ring and writing, "I SAID YES." She went public in May about her relationship with Kaulitz. Klum, a judge on "America's Got Talent," has three children from her marriage to Seal.

Debby Ryan, Twenty One Pilots drummer Josh Dun are engaged

NEW YORK (AP)—Actress Debby Ryan and Twenty One Pilots drummer Josh Dun are engaged. Both Ryan and Dun announced their engagement on social media Saturday. The 30-year-old Dun proposed to the 25-year-old Ryan in a treehouse in New Zealand. Dun posted a photo of himself proposing on one knee before a shocked Ryan. He called her his "dude for life." Ryan, star of the Netflix series "Insatiable," said on Twitter that she said yes. Ryan added she "technically said 'no way' twice but I meant yes."

Paul McCartney tells fans: Don't be like me and eat too much

LONDON (AP)—Paul Mc-Cartney's Christmas message to his fans around the world:

Don't be like me and eat and drink too much. The 76-yearold former Beatle tweeted his lighthearted holiday wishes Tuesday illustrated with photos from his younger days. He says "don't eat and drink too much! I know I will, but that's no excuse for you" before wishing everyone a good holiday. He says "I hope you enjoy all your presents and I hope you remember the true meaning of Christmas, which is love and peace and being good to each other." McCartney briefly reunited with Beatles drummer Ringo Starr at a London concert last week.

Joining police force changes view toward brother's drinking

EAR ABBY: My brother is my best friend. He is also an alcoholic. It runs in our family, and he has been addicted for years. His drinking has affected me in several (minor) ways over the years, but I have always taken a hands-off approach, knowing I can't force him to get help.

Well, his drinking is starting to affect my life in a more severe way now. I joined the local police force. I am afraid that my brother's behavior could cost me my job if I'm seen with him while he acts out, or if I try to defend him.

I love my brother fiercely, and I don't know what to do anymore. I feel like I need to avoid him, but I love him. Please help. CHALLENGED IN THE EAST

DEAR CHALLENGED: Establish some ground rules by explaining to your brother that although you love him, you cannot be seen with him if he has been drinking, for fear it will jeopardize your job. It's a valid concern. Make clear that if he breaks the law, you will be unable to intercede

You are not responsible for his addiction or for what he does when he's under the influence. I'm not saying this will be emotionally easy for you, but you must let your brother suffer the consequences for his behavior if he acts out.

DEAR ABBY: I have severe asthma and allergies, and I'm

particularly sensitive to bug sprays. If I'm exposed to them, my lips and tongue tingle for hours.

her

to

Every time my husband of 30 years sees a bug or even a small ant in our house, he reaches for the bug spray and saturates the house with it. Given the length of our marriage, he is well aware of how it affects me. I have asked him many times to please not use spray in the house, particularly when I am home, to no avail.

He did it again yesterday and got angry with me when I asked why. He reads your column, so I know he will see your response to my inquiry. What is your advice?

FED UP IN FLORIDA

DEAR FED UP: Stop asking your husband not to use bug spray while you are in the house. Be proactive and throw it out! You clearly have a severe allergy to something in it, and for him to persist in spraying while you are on the premises strikes me as not only selfish but also as a form of assault that's potentially very serious. Call an exterminator to have it professionally done. There are other, less toxic ways to get rid of pests, and you should go online and explore them.

DEAR ABBY: I asked a woman I know professionally if she'd be interested in having lunch. She said she would, and we had a lovely lunch—until the bill came. When I suggested we split it, she suggested I make it a business expense. I told her I

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



couldn't do that because it wasn't a business lunch.

I know if you invite someone to lunch, you pay, but I didn't think that's what I did. I have done this before-and sinceand everyone pays for themselves. Do I owe this woman an apology?

EVERYONE PAYS IN TEXAS

DEAR EVERYONE: Not unless she became defensive. However, because you did the inviting, you should have paid the bill. If you want to lunch with her again, you should specify, "Let's split it."

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

22 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes









By Bill Waterson

Garfield®







By Jim Davis

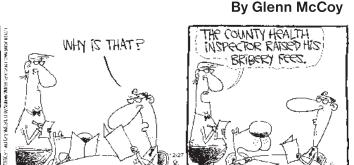
Adam@home



The Duplex

OUR MANAGER NEEDS EXTRA CASH.

COULD YOU ORDER A LOT?



KATY, DO YOU AT EAST LIKE THE TOY

CROSSWORD

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Monday's answer

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50 Old Olds-

mobile

44 iPod

45 Work

41 Strike

27 Larger

life

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35 Sheep

call

37 Sure

ingredient 39 Agra's

freshness





CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hayley Williams, 30; Gerard Depardieu, 70; Cokie Roberts, 75; John Amos, 79.

Happy Birthday: It's time to purge, not accumulate. Take a serious look at what makes you happy and how best to deal with what brings you down. Face facts and make changes that will ease stress and tension. It's up to you to do what's best for you and to enjoy your life and what you have and want to give. Your numbers are 5, 11, 24, 26, 32, 43, 45.



ARIES (March 21-April 19): Start a dialogue with someone who can play an instrumental role in your life. Consider what fits into your agenda and what doesn't and move forward. Don't let emotions interfere with your progress; you'll find a way to have it all.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take your place in the spotlight. Whether it's amongst friends, relatives or peers, share your experiences, love and positive perspective on life. Your words will matter to those you touch. Wisdom is a great gift to share. Romance is highlighted. �����

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Practicality will help get you through the day. Minimize your spending and consider what's truly important to you. Don't let anyone misguide

focusing on what lies ahead. 😂 CANCER (June 21-July 22): Make plans with the people you love. A relationship can be taken to the next level if you are open about what you want to pursue.

you or take advantage of you when you should be

Honesty will help you transition to where you want to be mentally, emotionally and physically. OOOO



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Big talk will draw a crowd, but if you exaggerate or make unrealistic promises, you will let down others and be put in an awkward position. Change needs to be executed with precision. OOO



and right for you. 🛇 😂

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Trust in your instincts. Assess what's being said. Refuse to let your emotions cloud your vision or your desire to please cost you financially. Take charge and stick to what you know is best

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Use your intelligence and look at the big picture regardless of what others try to sell you or make you believe. Change begins within and has to be to your specifications if you plan to move



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Personal improvements will make you feel good and lead to a decision that will change your relationship with the people who count. Make a move that will ease your stress and give you more time to enjoy what's important to you. OOOO



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It would be best to rethink some of the choices you've made in the past and how

best to handle emotional matters moving forward. A personal change will help you diminish stress, allowing you to follow your heart. ••

EUGENIA

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Offer facts when asked questions. Refuse

to let anyone put words in your mouth. Know what you want and make your plans clear. Refuse to let anyone use emotional tactics to reroute your plans or to take advantage of you financially. **20000** AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Lend

assistance to someone who needs help. Offering your wisdom and skills will be

a nice way to support the people you care about. A change in the way you handle or invest your money will ease stress. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put great-

er emphasis on personal growth, physical improvements, peace and love. Evaluate what you've done in the past and what you have to offer that will make your world a better place. Romance will enrich your life. 200

Birthday Baby: You are intuitive, helpful and kind. You are sensitive and proud.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDELEWORD.

IRONMANAMRIAHC

L U U T P L E V R A M T C S S

IHPANTHEREEEAUP

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OUELLET

Solution: 11 letter

PAC

B C H

Wonderword

STAN LEE (1922-2018)

S

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

12/27

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Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

8	4	6	3	7	9	2	5	1
9	2	1	6	5	8	4	7	3
7	5	3	2	1	4	9	8	6
4	7	9	1	2	3	8	6	5
1	3	8	5	9	6	7	2	4
5	6	2	8	4	7	3	1	9
3	1	5	9	8	2	6	4	7
6	8	7	4	3	5	1	9	2
2	9	4	7	6	1	5	3	8

Monday's SUDOKU Answer

								_
8	4	6	3	7	9	2	5	1
9	2	1	6	5	8	4	7	3
7	5	3	2	1	4	9	8	6
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1	3	8	5	9	6	7	2	4
5	6	2	8	4	7	3	1	9
3	1	5	9	8	2	6	4	7
6	8	7	4	3	5	1	9	2
2	9	4	7	6	1	5	3	8
ML19	ylan	#						10-34

Amazing, Ant Man. Batman. Black, Blade, Captain, Captions, Celia, Chairman, Comic Book, Creator, Ditko, Doctor, Doom. Editor, Falcon, Films, Flash, Green, Humor. Iron Man. Jack, Jan, Joan, Kirby, Lantern, Larry, Lieber, Martin, Marvel, Panther, Publisher, Robin, Romance, Silver, Spider-Man, Stanley, Surfer, Suspense, Team, Thing, Thor, Writer, X-Men Last Friday's Answer: Nativity The NEW Volume 55 can be purchased online at www.WenderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

26 28 33 35 39

44 45 52 55

STUMPED?

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Borja Santos) NOTICE OF Minor Child) HEARING

Ву:

Kasandra Borja Santos Petitioner

CARONEL

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on 25th, day of February, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Honorable Judge Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 8th day of November, 2018.

/s/ By: Patrick V. Diaz, Deputy Clerk of Court

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CLOSING DATE: Friday, December 28, 2018 • TIME: 10:00 AM

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Copies of the Scope of Work may be obtained at the Commonwealth Development Authority office, 2nd Floor CDA Bldg, in Oleai, Saipan during regular working hours or by facsimile request to 235-7147, or on our website: www.developcnmi.com.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ DONNIE P. MILITANTE Acting Executive Director /s/ JOSEPH A. TUDELA Acting Director, Procurement & Supply



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL MVA-RFP-19-2013

MARIANAS Submission/Closing Date: February 19, 2019 Time: 3:00 p.m.

For: Global Branding and Marketing Strategy

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority

Procurement Office San Jose Professional Building Beach Rd., San Jose P.O. Box 500861 Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after November 29, 2018, at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified courier services by February 19, 2019 and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the Commonwealth must notify the MVA in writing of their intent to submit a proposal in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. Participants outside the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands must submit a Notice of Intent by any mode of written communication including facsimile at+1-670-664-3237 or email to itorres@mymarianas.com, and must be received by 3 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on February 12, 2019.

All questions regarding this RFP must be sent to Judy Torres at itorres@mymarianas.com or faxed to +1-670-664-3237, no later than 3 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on January 14, 2019.

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce Chairperson, Board of Directors /s/ Christopher A. Concepcion Managing Directors

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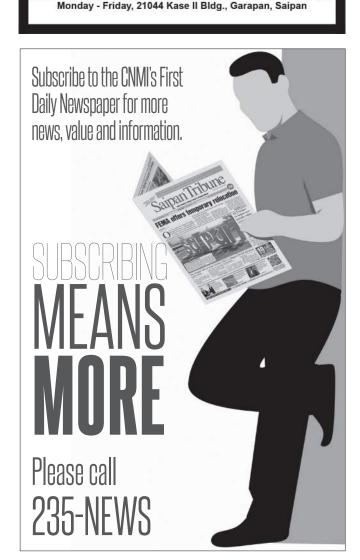
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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

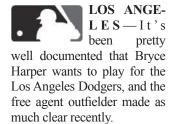


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Harper really likes idea of signing with Dodgers



On Saturday, Major League Baseball posted an Instagram about the Dodgers potentially being favorites to sign Harper, and Harper liked the post.

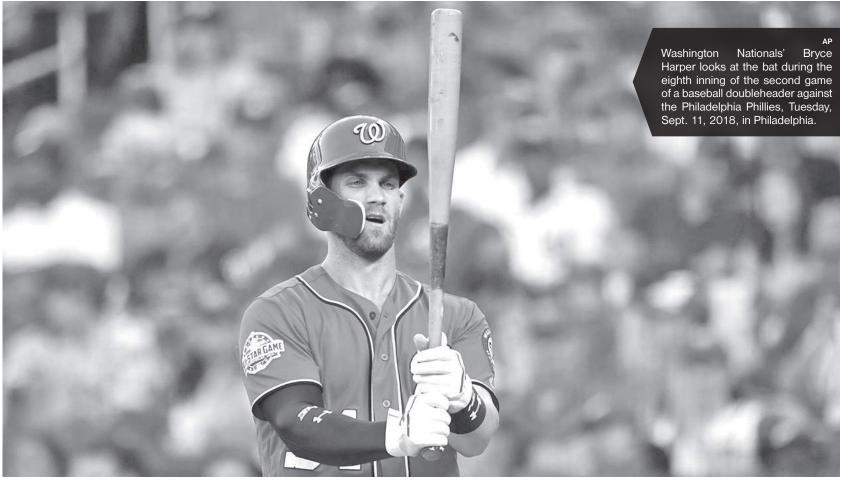
As silly as following who likes what post on social media can seem, Harper closely monitors his image and knows how his actions are perceived. Just like how LeBron James knew it would be a news story when he told Dwyane Wade that his career had to end in L.A. or New York.

The Dodgers have been one of the four highest-spending teams in each season since 2013 with an average annual payroll of \$247.7 million. The Dodgers did cut back on spending recently, however, falling under the luxury tax for the 2018 season at \$195 million.

Since signing Clayton Kershaw to a seven-year, \$215 million deal in 2014, the Dodgers haven't given out another nine-figure deal. And all the largest contracts they've given out have been to retain their own players: Kershaw's three-year, \$93 million deal this November and Justin Turner's four-year, \$64 million contract last offseason, plus Kenley Jansen's five year, \$80 million contract and Rich Hill's three-year, \$48 million deal two winters ago.

The Dodgers claim that they will be under the luxury tax through 2022, but that remains to be seen. They certainly have the financial wherewithal to outspend Harper's other suitors, including the Washington Nationals, Philadelphia Phillies, Chicago White Sox and Chicago Cubs.

The Dodgers made the last two World Series in part thanks to outstanding depth, but recently they've traded much of that depth away. On Friday, the Dodgers traded away spare outfield and rotation depth for salary relief, shipping Yasiel Puig, Alex Wood and Matt Kemp to the



Cincinnati Reds.

All told, the trade saved the Dodgers about \$6.8 million in salary but \$15.8 million in taxable salary, which leaves their payroll around \$180 million. They wouldn't be able to sign Harper, who will likely command more than \$30 million annually, and stay under the \$206 million luxury tax line, but now the tax burden will be much smaller if they do sign Harper.

Not only did the trade clear money to bring in Harper, the Dodgers also have a potential hole in the outfield. A group of Joc Pederson, Cody Bellinger and Alex Verdugo is not bad by any means, but the Dodgers would certainly welcome the thump that Harper brings to the middle of a lineup.

The big Dodgers-Reds trade doesn't make sense from a baseball perspective in a vacuum, but it might once the Dodgers spend the money they've saved. And Bryce Harper has an idea where they might spend it.

Meanwhile, the the Chicago Cubs urged Harper's agent to wait before accepting offer from another team.

The Cubs met with Harper's agent Scott Boras during the Winter Meetings in Las Vegas. The meeting lasted as long as three hours, according to Wittenmyer, and featured an interesting request from Cubs president Theo Epstein to Boras regarding Harper.

The Cubs and their budget woes have been well documented this offseason. The team committed big money last winter to Tyler Chatwood, Yu Darvish and Brandon Morrow, which resulted in a mixed-bag of sorts in terms of production in 2018.

At the very least, the Cubs' payroll will rise due to arbitration salary increases for the likes of Javier Báez, Kris Bryant, Kyle Hendricks and others. And before any additions, the Cubs' 2019 Opening Day payroll will surpass the franchise record of \$182 million set in 2018.

Furthermore, the Cubs' payroll is on track to surpass \$209 million (Tony Andracki), higher than MLB's luxury tax threshold of \$206 million. So essentially, the Cubs' desire to clear payroll might be a necessity in any case, whether that is for Harper or just to get under the luxury tax.

Harper joining the Cubs has been more speculation than reality, at least to this point. In fact, recent rumors surrounding Harper and Chicago have centered around the superstar joining the White Sox. One report even said the Harper sweepstakes is down to three teams: the Dodgers, Phillies and White Sox.

While the Cubs have remained relatively quiet this offseason, the rest of the NL Central has been active in free agency and on the trade market. The Cardinals added slugger Paul Goldschmidt and reliever Andrew Miller; the Reds, who finished fifth in the division in 2018, added sluggers Matt Kemp and Yasiel Puig.

Meanwhile, the most-notable addition to date is infielder Daniel Descalso. Adding Harper would still be a luxury for the Cubs, but it certainly would make the team better in arguably MLB's most competitive division.

At the very least, the Cubs should not be counted out in the Harper derby until a final decision has been made.

Average MLB salary down for first time since 2004

The average major league crease from 2012 to 2015 salary dropped this year for the first time since 2004 and for only the fourth time since record-keeping started 50 years ago, according to the players' association.

The union said its final average was \$4,095,686, \$1,436 down \$4,097,122 last year.

Since the union started keeping track in 1967, the only previous declines had been by \$66 in 1987, when owners were found to have conspired to hold down salaries among free agents; a 4 percent decline in 1995 following a 7½-month strike that wiped out the World Series for the first time since 1904; and by 2.5 percent in 2004.

This year's survey was based on the 968 players on major league rosters and disabled lists on Aug. 31, the last day before the active player limit expanded from 25 to 40.

Major League Baseball calculated this year's average at \$4,007,985, a 0.77 percent increase from a revised figure of \$3,977,446 for 2017. The union includes a pro-rated share of option buyouts that may be earned if the option is declined, while MLB does not take those into account

After years of strong growth, salaries have stagnated over the last three years. The union's average this year is up just 3.6 percent from \$3,952,252 in 2015. The inwas 23 percent.

An unusually slow freeagent market last offseason contributed to this year's drop. Among the 166 players who exercised the right to become free agents after the World Series, exactly half of the 140 agreements reached were completed after the start of spring training workouts Feb. 14. Many of those deals involving veterans were for depressed prices.

Two years ago, the union calculated the average at \$3,966,020, a 0.35 percent rise from the previous year's \$3,952,252 that was the lowest rate of increase since a 2.5 percent drop in 2004. MLB pegged that year's average at \$3,825,967, down from \$3,835,498 in 2015.

Meanwhile, free agent right-hander Mike Fiers agreed to a two-year contract worth more than \$14 million to stay with the Oakland Athletics, who were determined to find an experienced starter this offseason to help lead a young rotation.

They brought him back less than a month after not tendering him a contract. Fiers will earn \$6 million in 2019 and \$8.1 million in 2020.

Oakland would like to add another starter, too, realizing it must provide depth given all the injuries last season. Ace Sean Manaea is recovering from shoulder surgery and not expected back until at least the All-Star break.

US striker Weah confirms Ioan from PSG

PARIS—Timothy Weah will leave French champions Paris St Germain on loan for six months in January, the U.S. striker said on Tuesday.

British media reported the 18-year-old was set to join Scottish champions Celtic.

Weah has played only three times for PSG this season as bigger names such as Neymar, Kylian Mbappe and Edinson Cavani have limited his first-

In a message posted in French on his Instagram page, Weah thanked his PSG team mates, the coaching stan and supporters for making him feel part from the family.

"These few months have been great even though I haven't played much," Weah said. "I've always been grateful for the opportunities I

had at the beginning of the season because it opened me many doors this winter.

"I hope after these six months, I will be ready to return to the Parc des Princes and give everything for you, proud to be Parisian."

Since making his international debut in March, Weah has chalked up more appearances for the U.S.

dominated French Ligue 1 this season with 15 wins in their first 17 matches.

Weah, the son of former Liberia, PSG and AC Milan striker George Weah who won the 1995 Ballon D'Or, became the fourth-youngest U.S. men's national team player to score a goal when he netted in a 3-0 win over Bolivia in May.

in its average.

NFC playoff picture clear, AFC more muddled



(AP)—Barring ties in Week 17and there are some wild sce-

narios should certain games end in draws Sunday—the road to the playoffs is quite straight in the NFC. The path to a first-round bye in the AFC has a bunch of curves in it.

Already in are NFC division winners Dallas (East), New Orleans (South), Chicago (North) and the Los Angeles Rams (West). AFC divisions clinched belong to New England in the East and, well, nobody else. But there are clear leaders.

Seattle owns an NFC wild card, and the LA Chargers have one in the AFC, though they can still win the AFC West.

"You either believe in something or you don't," says coach Pete Carroll, whose 9-6 Seahawks made the postseason in what was considered a rebuilding year. "I think just staying the course and knowing we're on to something. Believing in the history. We know what we're capable of doing. We've shown it over a lot of years. You're always adapting, but it's staying what you're true to. I think that's what is happening. We look like a team that we have seen before, and that's powerful."

Most powerful so far has been New Orleans, with the league's best record at 13-2, and a dynamic offense led by Drew Brees. The Saints have home-field advantage throughout the conference playoffs.

The Rams (12-3) get the other opening-round bye if they beat San Francisco on Sunday. If they lose and the Bears win at Minnesota, Chicago (11-4) earns the week off and Los Angeles drops to the third seed.

A Bears win also could keep the Vikings (8-6-1) out of the postseason, providing defending champion Philadelphia (8-7) wins at Washington. Only the Vikings or Eagles can get the second NFC wild card.

"We've got to empty the bucket, and that's the way we've got to play next week at home," Vikings tight end Kyle Rudolph says. "I'm really looking forward to that environment.

In the AFC, seeding is more muddled. Any of four teams could be the top or second seed.

The simplest route is if Kansas City (11-4) and New England (10-5), currently the top two in the conference, both win Sunday. But if the Chiefs lose at home to Oakland and the Chargers (11-4) win at Denver, Los Angeles moves into the top spot.

Houston (10-5) also could wind up No. 1 in the AFC with losses by the Chiefs, Patriots



against the Jets, and Chargers. New England, the only unbeaten team at home this year, would get the first seed with a victory and losses by the Chiefs and Chargers.

And get this: Houston doesn't even own a division title. If the Texans fall at home to Jacksonville, the winner of the Colts at Titans game in Tennessee takes the AFC

South, and the Texans become a wild card, joining either the Chiefs or Chargers.

Texans coach Bill O'Brien, whose club began the season 0-3, is intrigued by the divi-

sion being so ensconced in the playoff picture this year.

"I think that's an interesting question because I can remember the question was, two years ago, 'Why is the

Seattle Seahawks running back J.D. McKissic, upper left, leaps over Kansas City Chiefs cornerback Charvarius Ward (35) during the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Dec. 23, 2018, in Seattle.

Impact of some of first-round picks at a glance

All five quarterbacks drafted in the first round have had impacts as rookies, one way or another. That's Baker Mayfield with Cleveland at the top and Baltimore's Lamar Jackson, the last pick of the first round, along with Sam Darnold of the Jets (third), Buffalo's Josh Allen (seventh) and Arizona's Josh Rosen (10th).

Saquon Barkley had a remarkable debut with the Giants as the No. 2 overall pick. Two of the top three betting choices for Defensive Rookie of the Year were drafted two spots apart: Los Angeles Chargers safety Derwin James (17th) and Dallas linebacker Leighton Vander Esch (No. 19).

A rundown of the debuts for the other first-round picks in last spring's draft:

No. 4: CB Denzel Ward, Cleveland —The 2017 All-American from Ohio State made the Pro Bowl, so the Browns appear to have hit twice with picks in the top four after a number of draft misses. Ward opened the season with two interceptions against Ben Roethlisberger and has shown surprising toughness with his ability to stop the run.

No. 5: DE Bradley Chubb, Denver—Chubb would need a huge finale to surpass Jevon Kearse's 14 1/2 sacks in 1999 with Tennessee, the NFL rookie record since sacks became an official statistic in 1982. But his 12 so far qualify as a huge success for a debut.

No. 6: G Quenton Nelson, Indianapolis -With the Notre Dame product as the first guard taken in the top six in more than two decades, the Colts' line went from allowing the most sacks last year (56) to the fewest (17) with a game remaining. During one stretch, Andrew Luck went 239 consecutive dropbacks without a sack.

No. 8: LB Roquan Smith, Chicago—The 2017 All-American for Georgia is third among rookies in tackles behind second-round pick Darius Leonard of Indianapolis and Vander Esch, according to SportRadar. A standout rookie season has been overshadowed by the preseason blockbuster trade for passrushing star Khalil Mack.

No. 9: T Mike McGlinchey, San Francisco—The second Notre Dame lineman drafted in the top 10 has been solid stepping in right away as the starter at right tackle. He has helped clear the way for a strong running attack but has had problems at times in pass protection.

No. 11: S Minkah Fitzpatrick, Miami-The first of four sacks and a forced fumfour first-rounders from Alabama has started 10 games, including the past seven, and has been used at safety and cornerback. It's undecided where he'll wind up. He was pressed into CB duty recently because of Xavien Howard's knee injury.

No. 12: DT Vita Vea, Tampa Bay—It took a little more than half the season, but the former Washington player has emerged as a starter alongside six-time Pro Bowler Gerald McCoy. More than half of his

tackles (16 of 24, according to SportRadar) have come the past three weeks.

No. 13: DT Da'Ron Payne, Washington—Another Alabama first-rounder, Payne has started every game, with solid production. He has 51 tackles and five sacks for one of the NFL's top pass-rushing defenses.

No. 14: DE Marcus Davenport, New Orleans—The first UTSA player invited to the Senior Bowl learned quickly despite being raw, getting ble in his first seven games. He doesn't have a sack since, in part because of missing three games with a sprained toe, but his backfield pressure has helped the rush.

No. 15: T Kolton Miller, Oakland—The former UCLA lineman went through a rough patch in the middle of the season when he tried to play with a sore knee. He's had more issues even after getting healthy and has allowed more sacks or pressures than any offensive lineman in the league.

AFC South so bad?" he says. "Now, 'Why is it so good?'

"...I've never thought it was bad. I think every year it's been extremely difficult to win games in the division. I just think there's a lot of great coaches. You've got Frank (Reich) in Indy, Mike (Vrabel) in Tennessee, Doug (Marrone) in Jacksonville. You've got a lot of great players, quarterbacks, so you've got a tough division."

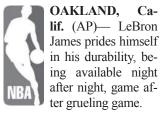
The AFC division often looked at as the toughest has been the North, which, not surprisingly, has come down to Baltimore vs. Pittsburgh. Except the Ravens (9-6) host the Browns, while the Steelers (8-6-1) must beat visiting Cincinnati and hope their archenemies from Cleveland sidetrack Baltimore, either beating or tying the Ravens.

Neither the Ravens nor the Steelers can be a wild card except if Pittsburgh ties the Bengals, then Indianapolis and Tennessee also tie. Then the Steelers are in.

Of course, Pittsburgh also can win the North with a draw and a loss by Baltimore.

Your head spinning yet?

LeBron injured, but Lakers still rout Warriors



That's why the Lakers star is so mad he got hurt.

The Los Angeles Lakers lost LeBron in the third quarter to a strained left groin then went out and beat the two-time defending champions without him Tuesday night, getting King James' 17 points, 13 rebounds and five assists before the injury in a surprising 127-101 rout of the Golden State Warriors.

"I take a lot of pride in it," James said of always playing. "That's why it (angered me) not to be able to go back into the game. It's more than anything being available to my teammates, being available to my coaching staff. That's something I take more personal than anything. Hopefully it's not a long thing.'

James grabbed at his left groin area with 7:51 left in the third after slipping under the Warriors' basket while trying for a loose ball. He tried to stretch it out, awkwardly walked toward the Lakers bench trying to loosen up before leaving on his own though gingerly out the tunnel for the locker room.

"I wasn't able to go back into the game, obviously. I'll get an MRI tomorrow and see what's up," James said. "With me with injuries, I'm never too concerned about them. I was able to walk off on my own power. I felt a pop, see if I could stretch it a few times, see if it would relieve but it didn't. ... I did a couple exercises to see if I could continue to go but I didn't feel like it would benefit my team or me. So I came back and got a jump start on the rehab."

He is scheduled for an MRI exam Wednesday and coach Luke Walton is preparing to be without James on Thursday night in Sacramento.

James has played in 156 straight games overall and 116 in the regular season. And he's not about to guess whether he will have to miss time.

Stephen Curry made consecutive 3s shortly after James exited, and the Warriors got within 78-76 at the 2:48 mark of the third-but Kyle Kuzma and the persistent Lakers stayed at it every possession. Curry wound up with 15 points but the home fans had seen enough well before the final buzzer and headed out for the rest of Christmas.

"They played like they had nothing to lose. They played like they had a free swing," Curry said. "Everybody who touched the ball was aggres-



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) shoots over Golden State Warriors forward Kevin Durant (35) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2018, in Oakland, Calif.

sive. They just had a different look in their eye and we weren't able to match that. They went out and won the game, that's basically it."

Kuzma contributed points with a pretty baseline 3 late, Ivica Zubac had 18 points and 11 rebounds and Rajon Rondo 15 points and 10 assists off the bench as the Lakers snapped an 11-game losing streak on the Warriors' home floor since a 118-115 overtime win Dec. 22, 2012. Los Angeles also ended a seven-game skid overall in the rivalry with its first win in the series since March 6, 2016.

James made it look easy early on shooting over Jonas Jerebko and Kevon Looney. James hit a turnaround jumper at the 4:39 mark of the second quarter to put the Lakers ahead 52-37 and L.A. led 65-50 at the break.

It was James' second straight Christmas game at Oracle Arena after playing here with the Cavaliers last year and losing 99-92.

Walton—a former Warriors top assistant and dear friend of Steve Kerr-got some time with his Hall of Fame dad, Bill, before the game and a few moments to catch up with Curry and share holiday greetings in the hallway after the two-time MVP's warmup routine.

Kevin Durant, playing on a tender left ankle, had 21 points, seven rebounds and seven assists.

Celtics 121, 76ers 114 OT

In Boston, Kyrie Irving hit back-to-back 3-pointers in overtime for six of his 40 points and Bostonrallied to a win over Philadelphia.

Irving, who forced the OT on a jump shot with 20 seconds left in the fourth, also pulled down 10 rebounds for the Celtics, who trailed 113-108 with 3:33 left in the extra period before rallying behind Irving down the stretch.

Ben Simmons' two free throws with 2:15 left to put the Sixers up 114-112, but Philadelphia didn't score again.

Irving's 3-pointer with 3:01 left gave Boston its first lead of overtime at 115-114, then after a miss by Philadelphia, Irving hit another 3-pointer with 1:28 left and Boston fans leaped to their feet and cheered louder than they had all night.

Rockets 113, **Thunder 109**

In Houston, James Harden scored 41 points and Houston beat Oklahoma City for its seventh win in the last eight

Harden has scored 30 points or more in a career-high seven games in a row, marking the first time a player has done that since Russell Westbrook had eight consecutive 30-point games in November 2016.

A 3-pointer by Paul George with less than two minutes left got Oklahoma City within 4 before Harden missed a 3. Westbrook missed a shot for the Thunder, but George stole

the ball from Harden and was fouled by him.

George made both free throws to get the Thunder within 2 with 43.6 seconds left. Harden then drove past George and into the lane for a layup to make it 112-108 with 20.4 seconds left.

Westbrook made 1 of 2 free throws to cut it to 3 with 15 seconds left, and Austin Rivers made a free throw with 7.4 seconds left to secure the win.

George had 28 points and 14 rebounds for the Thunder, and Westbrook added 21 points with nine rebounds and nine assists.

Bucks 109, Knicks 95

In New York, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 30 points and 14 rebounds in his Christmas debut, and Milwaukee celebrated its return to the holiday schedule by beating the Knicks.

Brook Lopez scored 20 points for the Bucks, who played on Christmas for the first time since 1977. They were selected for the showcase slate of games largely because of Antetokounmpo but the timing also was perfect to show an emerging team, which improved the NBA's second-best record to 23-10.

Malcolm Brogdon finished with 17 points for the Bucks, who bounced back from a loss to Miami on Saturday to win for the fifth time in six games.

Rookie Kevin Knox scored 21 points for the Knicks, who have lost six straight Christmas Day games and fell to 22-31 in their NBA-record 53 appearances on the holiday.

New York has lost five in a row and 10 of 11 since rallying to stun the Bucks 136-134 in overtime on Dec. 1 at Madison Square Garden.

Jazz 117, **Trail Blazers 96**

In Salt Lake City, Rudy Gobert had 18 points, 14 rebounds and seven blocks while Donovan Mitchell added 19 points to lead Utah to a rout of Portland.

Joe Ingles chipped in 15 points, seven rebounds, and five assists for the Jazz (17-18), who won for the fifth time in their last six home games while shooting 55 percent from the floor.

Damian Lillard score 20 points to lead Portland. Evan Turner added 12 points off the bench. The Blazers (19-15) lost to Utah for the second time in five days after shooting just 39 percent from the field.

LeBron details his angry response to KD comments on 'toxic' environment

Durant told Bleacher Report about why he thinks free agents hesitate to join up with LeBron James.

"So much hype comes from being around LeBron from other people. He has so many fanboys in the media. Even the beat writers just fawn over him. I'm like, we're playing basketball here, and it's not even about basketball at certain points. So I get why anyone wouldn't want to be in that environment because it's toxic. Especially when the attention is bulls-t attention, fluff. It's not LeBron's fault at all; it's just the fact you have so many groupies in the media that love to hang on every word. Just get out of the way and let us play basketball."

The key there is "it's not LeBron's fault at all." Durant thinks it's the media who are creating the "toxic" environment.

But James didn't take it that way. In an interview, he had this to say:

"I was a little pissed off when I first heard it-to be honest. I didn't know where it stemmed from. So

Earlier this month, Kevin I was pissed, my family was pissed, and my friends was pissed. We just didn't know why, at this point and time in the season, my name or what I've done in my career was kind of talked about like that. I don't feel like it's ever been toxic around me. And when I hear 'toxic,' I automatically thought, 'toxic' is like you don't wanna be around that because it's almost like a fatal disease.

"But got a phone call from KD. We talked about it. He mentioned how he felt and how he felt the story took a twist. And as a man, I don't hold on to things too long. I'm too happy in my life right now, and I don't hold on to anything that will take away from my happiness. ... Listen, he told me how he felt, and he apologized on how it came out. And I said, All right. We moved on from there."

Didn't he see that Durant specifically said that it wasn't James's fault? Seems like it doesn't matter anymore. Would it matter if Durant just happened to opt out of his Warriors contract and want to join James's Lakers next summer.

From bunkers and behind trees, memorable shots from 2018



(A P) — T i g e r Woods hit a shot he thought would lead to his 15th major.

Keegan Bradley made a putt he thought would be worth a trip to the Tour Championship.

Just about every player has one shot that stands out above the rest in 2018.

"For how I viewed it at the time—this is in the moment the shot I hit down 10 at The Open Championship out of that bunker," Woods said.

He was talking about the final round at Carnoustie, his ball in a fairway bunker with a burn between him and the green. Woods considered his pitching wedge one of those all-or-nothing moments. If it hits the lip of the bunker, he loses. If he pulls it off, he's going to win.

He pulled it off-and tied for sixth.

No matter.

"There are moments in a tournament where you know this is the shot that's going to win or lose the event," he said. "Unfortunately, I didn't win it, but at the time to know it and pull it off, that gave me a lot of confidence going forward, to be honest with you."

Justin Thomas considered a pair of wedges before settling on a lob wedge on the 72nd hole at the Honda Classic that he hit to a foot for birdie that got him into a playoff. He holed a gap wedge for eagle on the 72nd hole in Mexico



City that ultimately got him into a playoff, but Thomas wasn't in the last group. And he wound up losing in the playoff, anyway, so the nod goes to the Honda Classic.

Tony Finau says his was a 5-iron on the 17th hole in the final round at the Masters for his sixth consecutive birdie. This wasn't an ordinary birdie.

"I missed it in the right trees and it kicked back about 40 yards," he said. "I had a 190yard shot and I had like a 60to 70-yard slice, and I hit it to about 3 feet. I missed about a 12-footer on 18 to make seven birdies in a row (the Masters record). To be able to finish that way at Augusta was really cool, and that shot is the one that stuck out of all the birdies that I made.'

As for Bradley?

He made a 7-foot par putt on the final hole Saturday in the BMW Championship, and that meant everything. With so much rain in the forecast, it looked as though the tournament could be cut short to 54 holes. The par putt meant Bradley was alone in sixth place, and with no more golf, that would give him enough points

MELBOURNE,

Australia (AP)

—The Australian

Open in Janu-

ary will play a 10-point tie-

breaker in deciding sets, join-

ing Wimbledon and the U.S.

to finish in the top 30 in the FedEx Cup and get to East Lake. Miss it, and he would fall into a five-way tie for sixth.

"I knew in my head this was the last putt, and I had to make it to get into the Tour Championship," he said. "That was a good feeling when it went in."

Alas, the fourth round was played Monday. Bradley wound up winning for the first time in six years. He'll be in Maui next week for the Tournament of Champions.

Meanwhile, the European Tour was at its strongest in the weeks leading to the only major championship not on American soil. Otherwise, the gap widened again in world than all but three European

ranking points distributed to the winners on the PGA Tour and European Tour.

PGA Tour events in 2018 offered an average of just under 57 points to the winner, compared with 41.3 points to European Tour events. That's an average difference of 15.7 points, up from 15.1 points a year ago.

Throw out the four majors and the four World Golf Championships that are part of both tours' official schedule, and the gap gets wider.

The PGA Tour offered an average of 50.4 world ranking points for its regular events (not including opposite-field tournaments). That's more

Tiger Woods of the US plays out of a bunker on the 6th hole during the first round of the British Open Golf Championship in Carnoustie, Scotland, Thursday July 19, 2018.

Tour events—Abu Dhabi, the BMW PGA Championship and the DP World Tour Championship in Dubai. It's worth noting that the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth is a flagship event and automatically gets 64 points, though it had a weaker field than Colonial the same week, and was more on line with the Sony Open or Canadian Open.

The European Tour average, minus the majors and WGCs, was 31.73 points for the winner. The PGA Tour had only three tournaments that offered fewer than 32 points to the winner—the John Deere Classic, Safeway Open and RSM Classic at Sea Island.

Europe had seven tournaments that offered more world ranking points that week than the PGA Tour, three of them in the summer between the U.S. Open and the British Open the French Open, Irish Open and Scottish Open.

One big setback for the European Tour was when two PGA Tour fall events, Las Vegas and Mayakoba, had stronger fields than the Turkish Airlines Open and Nedbank Challenge, part of the Rolex Series that leads to the Race to Dubai conclusion.

Meanwhile, the eight Rolex Series events offered an average of 45 world ranking points to the winner, down from an average of 48 points a year ago.

KANOA

From Page 28

Guam Boys Soccer League Finals MVP and former CNMI national team player Ed Cho. Cho went on to knock in two goals and towed the Islanders to a 5-2 victory. Merrick Toves nailed both goals for Kanoa.

After absorbing their first loss, Kanoa players returned to the pitch and stood toe-to-toe against Wings, which fielded much experience and older players in their second outing

versus the visiting squad. The match then ended in a draw, 3-3. Ian tallied two goals, while Markus added one.

"We are very happy and proud with the way our team played in all the games. If there's one thing that they need to improve on—it's the mental aspect of the game. When the match is intense and they hear words from our opponents, they have to learn how to handle the situation so that they will keep their focus in the game," Zapanta said.

SUZUKI

From Page 28

tralia, while we have recently been invited to Palau and we might go there to compete or train. We also have to two big competitions in the summer—the Pacific Games in Samoa and the 2019 World Championships (long course) in South Korea," the Grace Christian Academy student said.

"But all these competitions only rely on the amount of resources we have and because they are minimal now, we are not sure which events we will be able to attend," he added.

The Department of Public Lands is now in charge of the

Marpi pool and other facilities that were used to be under Kan Pacific. DPL is expected to solicit a new request for proposal from companies interested in the property.

Meanwhile, besides earning a PB in the 100m freestyle, Suzuki was thankful for experiencing how to race in the world stage.

"It was pretty amazing. I realized I have a lot to learn and now have a better perspective on how the real professionals prepare and race. I was able to meet new people and connect mostly with other swimmers from Oceania. Our team did a pretty good job considering we did not have a pool to train in for a while," he said.

Open in using tiebreakers to avoid long matches. The tournament said the decision, reported widely a month ago but denied by Australian Open officials, came after consultation with current and for-

Temperatures often soar to 37 degrees (around 100 F) and beyond during the tournament. Australian Open tournament director Craig Tiley says "we asked the players—both past and present, commenta-

still get a special finale to these

often epic contests, with the

mer players and tennis officials.

tors, agents and TV analysts whether they wanted to play an advantage final set or not, and went from there. "We went with a 10-point tiebreak at six-games-all in the final set to ensure the fans longer tiebreak still then allowing for that one final twist or change of momentum in the contest. This longer tiebreak also can lessen some of the serving dominance that can prevail in the shorter tiebreak."

In the men's singles draw, the first four sets will feature a seven-point tiebreaker at 6-6, with the final set going to a

Croatia's Marin Cilic during the men's singles final at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 28, 2018.

> 10-point tiebreaker at 6-6. In women's singles play and men's and women's doubles and mixed doubles, the deciding set of three sets will be played with a 10-point tie-

Aussie Open to have 10-point tiebreakers in decider

Wimbledon announced in October it will next year have a standard first-to-sevenpoints tiebreaker when the de-

breaker at 6-6.

ciding set reaches 12-12.

The U.S. Open was the first Grand Slam tournament to introduce final-set tiebreakers, with a first-to-seven-points game at 6-6.

The French Open is the only remaining Grand Sam still decided by a long deciding set by advantage.

The Australian Open begins on Jan. 14.



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LeBron injured, bit Lakers still rout Warriors

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Saipan Tribune



SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Suzuki gets PB, still hopes for reopening of pool

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com REPORTER

CNMI swimmer Lennosuke Suzuki may have set a personal best time in the 14th FINA World Championships in China, but he believes he could have performed better if he had enough training time

"I swam in two events in China. In the 200meter freestyle, I had a time of 2:06.54, which was not a PB and I

in an appropriate facility.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO Swimmers could no longer enjoy a sight to behold like this at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi as the facility closed last Sept. 30.

the 100meter freestyle, I got the time of 56.91 seconds, which was a best time that

I was pretty happy about," said Suzuki, who was joined in the short course competition early this month by fellow Saipan Swim Club member Jinju Thompson and Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan's Nelson Batallones.

The three swimmers' preparation for the world championships was limited with the closure of the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi last Sept. 30 and after Saipan was flattened by Super Typhoon Yutu late October. Suzuki and Thompson practiced in open

was disappointed. Then in water, while Batallones had his separate training with Tsunami Saipan in a

hotel pool. "I just want-

ed to point out that I think the pool would have really helped me to compete better. Even though we can train in the ocean, without a real pool I am struggling to swim faster," the 16-year-old said.

Suzuki is hoping that the Marpi pool will resume operation next year, as CNMI swimmers are scheduled to compete in several events.

"We have more competition next year. We have one either in Hong Kong or Aus-

See SUZUKI on Page 27

Kanoa holds ground in friendlies

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

anoa Football Club's boys U15 team performed beyond expectations in the 2018 Guam/NMI Friendlies held last week at the Guam Football Association National Training Center in Dededo.

Kanoa won a pair of games, had one draw, and dropped only one match.

"To be honest, I was surprised with how our team played, considering they haven't been playing organized soccer since Super Typhoon Yutu hit Saipan late October. Some of them are not that fit because of the lack of games and the suspension of the 2019 NMIFA Fall Youth League, but they delivered and exceeded expectations by winning two games and holding their ground against older players," Kanoa coach Raymond Zapanta told Saipan Tribune.

"I think it helped that some of the guys were able to train with the national team under coach Mita (Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Michiteru Mita) several weeks after the super typhoon and before we went to Guam," Zapanta added.

The club's U15 squad was made up of Joe Emil Antonio, John Mark Anastacio, Zyrus Lester Bata, Markus

and Merrick Toves, Renz Guiller Fauni, Sean Gil, Taehun Han, Brian and Ian Lubao, Jonathan Mindanao, Daniel Mar Pablo, and Ian Karl and Jim Kurt Ma-

Ian Maniago had a hat trick in Kanoa's 4-2 victory over Wings FC last Thursday with the club's forward scoring in the 30th, 70th, and 85th minute. Brian Lubao drilled the other goal for Kanoa.

The visiting team then made it two in a row after crushing the Southern Cobras last Friday, 8-3. This time, it was Markus Toves' turn to shine, delivering three goals in the lopsided victory. His older brother Merrick added a brace, while siblings Jim Kurt and Ian Maniago and Lubao contributed one each.

For its third game last Saturday, Kanoa was pitted against the Islanders, who were bannered by 2018 Independent Interscholastic Athletic Association of

See KANOA on Page 27



Kanoa Football Club's Markus Toves tries to recover the ball after colliding against a Wings defender during a friendly game at the Guam Football Association National Training Center in Dededo



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kanoa Footbal Club players and officials pose for a photo after one of their games at the Guam Football Association National Training